

HISTORIC BUILDINGS LURE CUSTOMERS

Tribune-Star Parko-Vermillion Today April 22, 1999

A bit of nostalgia

Machledt business thrives in town once known as trading post for Miami Indians

By PATRICIA L. PASTORE

TRIBUNE-STAR

People travel from near and far to Machledt Furniture and Appliances in Montezuma to shop in seven ancient buildings in this historic river town that was once a major trading post for the Miami Indians.

Some visitors stop by just to tour the old buildings — two hotels, a saloon, a boarding house, a theater, a hardware store, cafe, dry goods shop and even a funeral parlor. The only building on the west side of the Main Street business district not owned by Machledt is a bank. The second story of the bank building is rented by Fred Machledt. That area is among 44 rooms in the connecting buildings used to display furniture.

Rooms in what once was the old King Hotel still have numbers nailed above the doors, and lavatories are visible in some of them. Guests who occupied any of the 24 rented rooms shared one bathroom at the end of the hall.

"They couldn't have spent a lot of time in the bathrooms back then," said Kay Houze, a bookkeeper/sales person.

She doesn't mind giving guided tours of the Machledt buildings. As she walked from her office on the first floor to an adjoining building, the Rex Theater, she spoke of its fame. She says the theater had 254 seats and was one of the first air-conditioned buildings of its kind in the state. It was cooled by blowing air over blocks of ice, she said.

"The original pressed tin ceiling is still in place," Houze said as she gazed upward.

Visitors come from all over, she said. They come from Oklahoma, Arizona, California and Florida, with many coming from Chicago.

"We've sent several pieces [of furniture] to Florida for a guy who came to the Covered Bridge Festival and stopped here," she said.

When visitors pass through the kitchen and cafe of the former King Hotel, there is a window between the two rooms where food was passed by cooks to waiters and waitresses. The hotel's barber shop has the original ceiling fan. A unique fireplace, pocket door and decorative ceiling await inspection in the hotel lobby.

Upstairs, an old hand-pull elevator is still used to

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

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MACHLEDT'S FURNITURE



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Businessman: Fred Machledt stands along the stretch of Montezuma that houses his furniture and appliance business.

lift items to transport furniture to the second floor of the store. Last week, the lift was filled with mattresses and solid wood bedroom suites.

The Machledt name is well known in Parke County. Frederic Paul "Fred" Machledt, a Montezuma native, bought the furniture store from his father about 14 years ago. He is the fifth generation to serve residents in the Montezuma area.

A young bridge builder, Bertram Machledt - Fred Machledt's great-great grandfather - left Germany in 1848 and settled in Montezuma after working his way east from New Orleans. Then he used his building expertise to construct bridges across the Wabash & Erie Canal. One-half mile south of the Machledt buildings, the canal turnaround basin was constructed. The basin served as a loading and unloading spot where logs, grain and salt pork products were sent to New Orleans.

By 1857, canal transportation was replaced for the most part by railroads. Fred Machledt's great-grandfather, John Fredrick Machledt, followed in his father's

footsteps and built bridges too - railroad bridges.

"Two major rail lines intersected the town, where freight and passengers could transfer," Fred Machledt said. "The east-west line connected Washington, D.C., with Springfield, Illinois; the north-south line operated from Chicago to Miami, Florida."

Fred Machledt says he took a lesson from his father and continued with the personalized customer service that made his father's name known throughout the Wabash Valley and beyond. His father stressed treating customers right by selling quality goods at a reasonable price, he says.

"My father's favorite vocation was people," Machledt said. "If you don't treat people right, they can certainly take their dollars and go elsewhere. Dad worked at the store six of seven days a week. He brought a briefcase filled with papers home every night and worked another four hours after supper. He sold, he kept books, he ordered, he did everything."

► Turn to **MACHLEDT**, E7

Machledt: Fifth generation continues to operate business

► Continued from E1

In the main building Fred Machledt's great-grandfather, Joe Mankin, operated a saloon and a pool hall.

"When my father was nearing the end of high school, a man from Terre Haute Business College wanted four of six ceiling fans his father owned," Fred Machledt said. "He traded the four fans for my father's two-year education at the college, and the fans were installed at the business college."

Machledt Furniture and Appliances got its start after Paul Machledt returned from military service in 1946. He served as a supply sergeant with the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II.

"When he came home, he didn't want to shovel coal," Fred Machledt said. He was working for a natural gas company and

learned about clean burning gas-fired floor furnaces, he said.

"My father and a friend bought three and sold one. Next, they bought three and sold all of them," he said, explaining that floor furnaces are installed in the floor, and the burner unit hangs below the floor in the crawl space or basement. "On weekends, they sold and installed furnaces. In 1954, my father bought a building in Montezuma and added a line of quality metal cabinets known as Youngstown Kitchens. That was the beginning of Machledt Furniture and Appliances."

Today, Fred Machledt travels from his home in Indianapolis three or four times a week to meet and greet customers at the Montezuma store. His Indianapolis furniture store is a branch of the Montezuma business.

Word of mouth is the best advertising, he said. He said customers who know the name Machledt from trading at the original store or traveling through Montezuma frequent the store in the state's capital.

"Once someone samples the sincerity and honesty and our service and pricing, they return and tell their friends," he said. "In Indianapolis it's a flash - come in only if you want to buy. In Parke County, you are not a number. You're an individual. In small communities you can't get away with the kind of marketing you can in a big town because word travels too fast. You are expected to deliver what is promised."

Machledt carries on the legacy his father started more than 50 years ago when he served the community and built bridges of trust between his patrons and his business. Furniture and appliance delivery is free, and

he offers in-store financing to patrons with good credit.

"Fred is a caring person, just like his dad," said Susie Berry, a Machledt employee. "He always has time for everyone who comes through that door. It's a terrific place to work."

Two younger Machledts believe the Montezuma store is a great place to explore, Machledt says. He says his two daughters - Julie, 13, and Maggie, 15 - love to bring their friends from Indianapolis to Montezuma.

"Their biggest interest is bringing friends over from Indianapolis and walking them through the store," he said.

"They also do the same things grandmothers and granddaughters have always done - do the baking thing with their grandmother, Mildred Machledt."

Memorial Hall Papers Give Much History

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Int. - Star Aug 16 1961

In some old documents and papers turned over to the Vigo County Historical Society were found a few concerning the Memorial Hall Association.

For several years before the turn of the century, members of the two local GAR organizations had urged that a club room be provided for the old soldiers—a building in which the patriotic organizations could hold their meetings and where the veterans could spend a comfortable hour with each other.

The movement to buy or erect such a building took tangible shape early in the spring of 1910 when the GAR executive committee in charge of the state encampment was preparing to entertain the Indiana Division of the GAR.

Much credit for the movement was given to the members of the amusement committee of the encampment composed almost entirely of business men headed



Dorothy J. Clark

by Marx Myers. Through the efforts of this committee and the finance committee the expenses of the state encampment were defrayed while the amusement and concessions netted a balance of about \$2,200. To this sum was added \$2,500 by the Vigo Monumental Association, and the balance was raised through subscriptions.

According to the minutes of the Association dated June 15, 1910, a motion was made by George W. Krietenstein to form a Memorial Hall Association, "composed of all members of the GAR Encampment Committee and that such Association have twelve directors as follows: three citizens, three members of the Vigo County Monumental Association, one member of GAR Morton Post No. 1, one member of GAR Baird Post No. 592, one member of the Union Veteran Legion, one member of the Sons of Veterans, one member to represent the City of Terre Haute, and Nicholas Filbeck, Sr., present chairman of the Executive Committee of Entertainment of the Thirty-first Annual Encampment, Dept. of Indiana, GAR. and that said chairman name members of Board of Directors from the citizens of Terre Haute and from the members of the above named organizations." This motion was

seconded by W. S. McCoy, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Chairman Filbeck made the following appointments: Morton Post, T. C. Williams; Barid Post, T. J. Keylon; Union Veteran Legion, Jessie Robertson; Sons of Veterans, George W. Krietenstein; Monumental Assoc., S. C. Crawford; David Denny and Burget; Citizens, Marx Myers, Homer L. Stees and James Lyons; City of Terre Haute, Louis Gerhardt.

First Annual Meeting.

On July 5, 1911, the first annual meeting of the Memorial Hall Association, the Board was increased to thirteen members and Spencer F. Ball was unanimously elected. The following year, at the second annual meeting, the Board was increased to fourteen to allow the Spanish-American War Veterans to be represented, and Capt. A. W. Dudley was unanimously elected.

Fifty years ago what we know as Memorial Hall was a rundown old building called "The Old Curiosity Shop." Once the most handsome and best-built and designed building in town, after weathering the storms and snows of three-fourths of a century, it was still in a comparatively substantial condition. Used as a bank for over half a century, it was deserted as a business house because the city's growth was eastward. Standing empty it became damaged by vandals and was used as a flop-house by passing tramps.

Preston Hussey, president of the Terre Haute First National Bank, was the last person to be interviewed about the historic old bank. "At the time the building was started the Terre Haute branch of the State Bank of

Indiana was roundly censured for locating in the outskirts of the city, most of the city at that time was lying between Second street and the Wabash River.

"The new building, located almost half way between Second and Third on Ohio, was almost in the woods. There were no buildings to the east of the bank, and no one had built to the east of Third street. The city of Terre Haute at that time had a population estimated at 2,000.

"It took the greater part of two years to complete the building, a two-story structure designed by Architect E. J. Peck who afterwards became president of the Vandalia Railroad. It was constructed of brick and the hardest kind of plaster.

Residence of Cashier.

Actual work of building began early in the spring of 1834, but it was late in the summer of 1836 before it was ready for occupancy. Beginning in 1848, the family of the cashier lived in the building directly behind the business rooms. Frank McKeen was born there in 1852. Cashiers and their families continued to live there until 1858.

"The First National Bank ever organized in Terre Haute followed the State Bank of Indiana, making the building its headquarters beginning in 1864 and continuing until it had outgrown the building and the city had outgrown the location, when the bank was removed to its new building at Fifth and Wabash."

Including among the papers was Architect Rodney Leonard's blueprint of the remodeling. He agreed to "remove present vault and ward rooms and make one large room with library—all flooring, lath and plastering, masonry, etc., to be perfectly

repaired. The present hardwood floor to be taken up and relaid in a first class manner."

Capt. A. C. Ford was put in charge of the committee's plans for acquiring and remodeling the old building. The front room on the ground floor was to be handsomely furnished as a club room. Directly in the rear of the club room, under the dome, was the room set apart for a museum. Immediately in the rear of the museum was a large hall, the meeting place for all the military and patriotic societies of the community.

Interior Decoration.

In February, 1912, the Temple Art Glass Company, of Indianapolis, made art glass portraits for the dome of Memorial Hall at a cost of slightly over \$30 each. The upper row, numbered one to 12, was called the Banker's Row, and the lower row, numbered 13 to 24, was the Colonel's Row, containing the portraits of the local Regimental Commanders of the Civil War. Originally there were 17 portraits and seven colored panels.

In May, 1915, the portrait of Nicholas Filbeck, who had recently passed away, was ordered to fit panel No. 23. His description was given for the artist's instruction as "eyes dark grey, complexion olive, hair black," and the order stated that it was to be ready for installation before Memorial Day.

Another paper dated 1911 stated that "Kemper & Co., offices in the Grand Opera Building, agreed to build a six-foot, eight-inch stone wall and gate costing \$115.50 for wall enclosing the rear of Memorial Hall property on Ohio Street; the wooden gate was to cost \$12.50 additional." A letter in reply urged the workmen to "please commence the work as soon as possible taking special pains to get a solid foundation over the former vault in the southeast corner." (The privy vault, not the bank vault, we presume!)

Terre Haute's oldest building, Memorial Hall, located on Ohio street across from the Courthouse, has just recently undergone another facelifting and doesn't show her 127 years under her fresh coat of paint. The preservation of this historic old landmark must gradually pass from the hands of the Spanish-American veterans to the veterans of our more recent wars and our history minded citizens.

INDIANA POST

4/16/61

X Memorial
Memorial Hall
Community Affairs File
DO NOT

GAR Memorial Hall first was home to model bank

T s APR 30 1984

Community Affairs File

Historic Landmarks (W.V.)

At a time when there is a great need for funds to maintain and restore the GAR Memorial Hall, at about 217 Ohio Street, it might be well to look back over the history of the building.

The state established the State Bank of Indiana in 1834, providing for 13 branches in the larger cities. Terre Haute was one of those.

The state did not provide all the capital, but sold shares for \$18.75, lending the balance for each \$50 share. The banks were subject to semi-annual audit. Each bank had its own president and other officers, its own board of directors. During the life of the State Bank of Indiana, which was dissolved in 1857, the local branch paid regular dividends of 10-to-12 percent, and at the end of its charter paid stockholders a 100 percent surplus dividend. Of the 13 branches over the 20 years of the charter, there was only one case of fraud.

The meeting to establish the bank locally was held October 25, 1834. Present were Demas Deming, Chauncey Warren, James B. McCall, James Farrington, Curtis Gilbert, John Crawford, Daniel H. Johnson, William W. Williams, William Early, Alexander McGregor, Joseph Jenckes, Jerathmad B. Jenckes, William Wines, Stephen Beard, William Markee, John Jackson Jr., Thomas Durham, John D. Watson, Andrew Armstrong, Henry Allen John D. Taylor, Jacob B. Wallace, Charles Goreman, John Scott, Septer Patrick, Ralph Gibson, Ezra M. Jones, James Ross, and Ben Whitcomb. Demas Deming served as president for 18 years.

Directors elected were Chauncey Rose, John Early, Dave Linton and S. Crawford from Vigo County, and John Sunderland from Parke County.

Capital was \$160,000, one-half provided by the state. The loan by the state to the stockholders of \$31.25 was secured by a six percent mortgage, with the full amount of the dividends credited to the loan. The branch loan here was paid seven years before the end of the charter.

The state portion was sold in London as coupon bonds at five percent. The state profit from the

Main Street



Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle

Assistant Editor Emeritus

bank was \$3 million, which is the basis for the still-operating school fund.

The Wabash Courier here wrote the following epitaph for the state bank when it dissolved: "Here lies a bank that has paid all its dues, made a profit for the state, went to an honourable grave, leaving a successor with a bad beginning but a good example."

Many men associated with the local State Bank of Indiana became leaders in the city's financial firms: W.R. McKeen, Demas Deming (son of the president), John Crawford, and others.

The Bank of the State of Indiana was established as successor to the dissolved bank, with 20 branches, but no state funds involved. Local banks were established with local funds and shareholders. Individuals also loaned money as a business operation, without other banking services.

The National State Bank of Indiana took over the local charter in 1856, for 20 years, but gave up the charter to become a National Bank.

The building which housed the bank is now a museum of war relics and is maintained by the United War Veterans Council. John Kesler is heading the fund-raising effort, seeking \$10,000 to rebuild the boiler plan and complete other maintenance work.

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File

Memorial Hall oldest building in Terre Haute

BEFORE the turn of the century, members of the two local groups of the Grand Army of the Republic were trying to establish a club room for the aged Civil War veterans. They needed a building where the veterans could visit with each other and where patriotic organizations could hold their meetings.

While preparations were underway for the GAR State Encampment to be held in Terre Haute in 1910, Marx Myers, downtown businessman, was appointed head of the amusement committee. Myers, along with the finance committee, raised enough money to defray the expense of the encampment and have a balance left over of about \$2,200.

The Vigo County Monumental Association contributed \$2,500 left over from the expenses of erecting the Civil War monument on the courthouse lawn. With this money as a nucleus, the balance of the purchase price of Memorial Hall was obtained through donations.

On June 15, 1910, a meeting was held to form a Memorial Hall Association. George W. Krietenstein made the original motion. The association was composed of all members of the GAR Encampment Committee with 12 directors: three citizens; three members of the Vigo County Monumental Association; one member of GAR Morton Post No. 1; one member of GAR Baird Post No. 592; one member of Union Veterans Legion; one member of Sons of Veterans; one member to represent the City of Terre Haute; and Nicholas Filbeck Sr., chairman of the Executive Committee of Entertainment of the 31st Annual Encampment, Department of Indiana, GAR.

The chairman was responsible for naming individuals to serve on the board of directors. The motion seconded by W. S. McCoy was unanimously adopted. Filbeck appointed T. C. Williams of Morton Post; T. J. Keylon, Baird Post; Jesse Robertson, Union Veterans Legion; Krietenstein, Sons of Veterans; David Denny, Lawrence Burget and S. C. Crawford, Monumental Association; Terre Haute Mayor Louis Gerhardt; and Myers, Homer L. Stees and James Lyons, citizens.

A year later, the board was increased to 13 members. Spencer F. Ball was unanimously elected. The following year, 1912, the board was increased to 14 to allow the Spanish-American War veterans to be represented. Capt. A. W. Dudley was unanimously elected.

What is now known as Memorial Hall was a rundown old building called "The Old Curiosity Shop" in 1911. Once the most handsome, best built and designed building in Terre Haute, it had weathered the storms and snows since 1834, the year construction began, and was still in comparatively substantial condition.

Used as a bank for more than half a century, it was deserted as a business house because the city's growth was toward the east. Standing empty it became damaged by vandals and was used as a flophouse by passing tramps.

Preston Hussey, president of Terre Haute First National Bank, was interviewed about the historic old bank building. He told how the Terre Haute Branch of the State Bank of Indiana was roundly censured in 1834 for locating on the outskirts of the city. Most of Terre Haute at that time laid between Second Street and the Wabash River.

"The new building," he said, "located almost half way between Second and Third on Ohio, was almost in the woods. There were no buildings to the east of the bank, and no one had built to the east of Third Street." The population of Terre Haute at that time was estimated at 2,000.

"It took the greater part of two years to complete the building," Hussey said, "a two-story structure designed by Architect E. J. Peck who afterwards became president of the Vandalia Railroad. It was constructed of brick and the hardest kind of plaster."

Hussey told how "actual work of building began early in the spring of 1834, but it was late in the summer of 1836 before it was ready for occupancy. Beginning in 1848, the family of the cashier lived in the building directly behind the business rooms. Frank McKeen was born there in 1852. Cashiers and their families continued to live there until 1858."

He told how "the first National Bank ever organized in Terre Haute followed the State Bank of Indiana, making the building its headquarters beginning in 1864 and continuing until it had outgrown the building and the city had outgrown the location, and the bank was removed to its new building at Fifth and Wabash." This is where the Saratoga Restaurant is now located.

Historic Landmarks (W) -
Memorial Hall
Architect Rodney Leonard's blueprint of the remodeling of what was to become Memorial Hall shows he agreed to "remove present vault and ward rooms and make one large room with library, all flooring, lath and plastering, masonry, etc., to be perfectly repaired. The present hardwood floor to be taken up and relaid in a first class manner."

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In May 1915, the portrait of Nicholas Filbeck, who had recently died, was ordered to fill panel 23. His description was given for the artist's instruction as "eyes dark grey, complexion olive, hair black." Plans were made to install it before Memorial Day.

Kemper & Co., with offices in the Grand Opera Building in 1911, built a six-foot stone wall with a wooden gate enclosing the rear of the Memorial Hall property at a cost of \$128.

Memorial Hall, opened for occupancy 150 years ago this month, is the city's oldest building. It survives despite uncertain leadership and lack of long-range planning.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
NO. CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Memorial Hall

Historic Landmarks (W.V.)

**MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE
APPROVES SPECIFICATIONS**

J. N. Star June May 23, 1911 p. 12
**Will Advertise for Bids to Be Opened
June 12 for Restoration of "The
Old Curiosity Shop."**

The building committee of the G. A. R. Memorial Hall Association, composed of Jesse Robertson, chairman, Lawrence Burget and T. J. Keylon, last night approved plans and specifications of Robert Leonard, architect of the association, for the restoration of the old State Bank building in West Ohio street known as "the old curiosity shop."

Bids will be advertised for and opened June 12. Mr. Keylon was elected secretary of the board. The \$7,000 building fund raised by the association is on hand or assured.

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE LIBRARY SQUARE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

THE MEMORIAL HALL ASSOCIATION, of Vigo County, Indiana, has purchased the Indiana State Bank building, commonly known as the "Old Curiosity Shop", on Ohio Street. The Association hopes, by the aid of subscriptions, to restore the building to its original dignity and beauty, and to dedicate it as a perpetual memorial to the soldiers and sailors of Vigo County, and to the officers of the Old Indiana State Bank. The building, with addition, may also serve as a meeting place and club house for present and future organizations of soldiers and sailors; and as a safe and permanent historical depository.

copy

The Old Indiana State Bank is one of those beautiful buildings in the perfect Grecian style, so familiar in the early days of the republic, but so rarely seen now. It is the finest, in fact almost the only specimen of Grecian architecture in Terre Haute. Such buildings are highly prized by all cities so fortunate as to possess them. Therefore, the restoration and preservation of the only interesting relic of this character in this city appeals strongly to the lovers of architecture and local history: that it should become a memorial of the bankers who so long and honorably conducted a great financial institution there seems most fitting, while its permanent dedication to the brave soldiers and sailors past, present and future of Vigo County is a pleasure as well as a patriotic duty.

To assist the Memorial Association in carrying out its plans is a privilege.

The following or something similar will be placed on a tablet within the building:--

This MEMORIAL HALL is dedicated to the Soldiers and Sailors of Vigo County, to the wise and prudent Officers of the Bank occupying this building from its erection to the bank's removal, and to the citizens who made its establishment possible.

BRANCH BANK OF THE STATE BANK OF INDIANA.

Demas Deming	President	1836 to 1845
Curtis Gilbert	"	1845 " 1853
Levi G. Warren	"	1853 " 1865
Preston Hussey	"	1865 " 1910
James Farrington	Cashier	
A.B. Fontaine	"	
Nathaniel Preston	"	18 " 1849
Joseph S. Jenckes	"	1849 " 1852
William R. McKeen	"	1852 " 1854
Preston Hussey	"	1854 " 1865
Charles M. Warren	"	1865 " 18

VIGO COUNTY SOLDIERS WHO WERE REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS.

General Charles Cruft	Colonel 31st Ind. Infy.
William E. McLean	" 43rd " "
Halville D. Topping	Col. Commdg. 71st Ind. Infy.
John Baird	Colonel 85th Ind. Infy.
Alexander B. Crane	" 85th " "
Robert N. Hudson	" 133rd " "
William H. Fairbanks	" 149th " "
James K. Stewart	" 2nd " Cavalry
Robert R. Stewart	" 11th " "
Col. Richard W. Thompson	

It is the purpose also to honor the Regimental Commanders and the bank officers with art glass portraits placed in the dome of the building.



Memorial Hall: Weathers more than 150 years.

Community Affairs File

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Memorial Hall needs \$1 million for proper historic renovation

Historic Landmarks (WV)

Unlike vintage wine or fine old cheese, some things do not improve with age. Memorial Hall has weathered more than 150 years and is in desperate need of major reconstructive surgery if it is to survive many more.

Max Miller, whose Vigo County Cooperative Extension Office is the hall's neighbor to the east, has watched the building decline steadily and "as a concerned neighbor" would like to see something done.

"The windows and doors are just hanging," Miller said. "The building needs so much repair and then a multi-purpose use to maintain it."

Shelton Hannig, a member of the Memorial Hall Association board, said that about five years ago efforts were made to see what emergency repairs were needed. But no effort to determine the building's total needs has been made.

"It would take several thousand dollars just to conduct an architectural study to learn all that is needed," Hannig said. He estimated more than \$1 million would be needed for "a proper historic renovation" but added "a lot could be done to maintain the building for less money."

A vital first step is to weatherize the roof, windows and doors and then take a look at the inside, Hannig said.

John Kesler has served for many years as chairman of the 13-member Memorial Hall Association board, but said he did not seek reelection this fall because of out-of-town business commitments.

The building was once a very popular meeting place for veterans and all sorts of civic groups, Kesler said. "But as the older vets have died off, the younger veterans have found their own places and other groups have quit using it because of the lack of facilities and maintenance."

In spite of the great historic significance of the

building, it is now almost unused and useless, Kesler said.

Fred Sutton, a board member, said it's difficult to get a quorum for meetings. Several groups, including the Disabled American Veterans and REACT, meet in the hall, but the income isn't enough to balance the outgo, he said. The DAV helps out by paying utility bills, while other groups rent space at about \$10 per meeting.

"It's not enough to meet expenses, let alone allow for repair or maintenance," Sutton said.

Fred Nation of the Vigo County Preservation Alliance said that Memorial Hall is on a list of five local buildings of interest to the group, but top priority now goes to the Preston-DeWeese House and the Big Four Depot. The other three — in no particular order — are the Indiana Theater, Memorial Hall and the Terre Haute House, he said.

The state historic preservation group has also expressed an interest in Memorial Hall and has pledged its support, Nation said, but that may or may not include financial support.

Vigo County Historian Dorothy Clark said the only practical solution is to form a non-profit corporation. She suggested representatives from veterans' groups and Terre Haute First National Bank "whose history is tied to the building" should reach "a sensible plan for restoring, using and maintaining the building."

She said that the problem with veterans' stewardship of Memorial Hall has been that "there is no continuity of leadership."

Kesler agrees with that assessment, but said, "Deeding the property to a foundation might be hard to sell to the veterans unless they could be made to feel a part of it."

He also suggested that some red tape may need to be untangled.

Community Affairs File

Memorial Hall

T FEB 25 1982

Memorials (WV)

Historic Landmarks (271)

Community Affairs File

Efforts made to restore Memorial Hall group

By KATHY DENNIS
Tribune Staff Writer

After having no formal meetings since 1977, the Memorial Hall Association is getting back together again.

"We feel it should be made active, and (we want) to upgrade it and make it a viable association," said Fred Schwartz, association secretary.

The association was formed in the early 1900s for the purpose of maintaining Memorial Hall, located at 219 Ohio Street across from the Vigo County Courthouse.

Schwartz said he encourages anyone interested in preserving and upgrading the hall to attend a meeting at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the hall. Thirteen trustees/directors will be elected at this time.

"Those who are interested don't have to be veterans," he said. "We want the interest of all citizens."

Only about eight of the last 13 trustees elected to the association are still in town or alive, Schwartz said. Although a few informal meetings have been conducted since 1977, no formal sessions with minutes have occurred, he added.

The association went inactive because of the difficulty in getting trustees together for meetings, Schwartz said. "Some of them were very old."

The few remaining active trustees are now looking for fresh input into the organization, so that such ideas as obtaining government grants, establishing the building as a museum and changing the constitutional by-laws can go forward.

The meeting Wednesday is a start in this direction, Schwartz said.

"There is interest, we know there is," he said, "and that would be an important thing to maintain here."

Memorial Hall has the distinction of being one of

the oldest commercial buildings in Terre Haute. It was originally built as a bank and went on to house such organizations as GAR and a civil war group.

Association officials right now are looking into the possibility of their getting a governmental grant. Also, they would like to make their constitutional by-laws less "vague," Schwartz said.

"We'd like to have some expression from those

interested to guide us (in updating the by-laws)," he added.

In speaking of plans to establish the hall as a museum, Schwartz commented, "It would be nice to make a public exhibition place out of it," explaining that for the association to get public funds in the form of a grant, the structure must have some public use.

REFERENCE
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Vigo County Public Library

INVENTORY

Memorial Hall Association

Dates: 1910-1915

Accession Number: 830824C-

Donor: Spencer F. Ball

Description: Five file folders in a document case

Content and Scope of Collection

Resolution, letters, clippings, and specifications pertaining to the rehabilitation of the Indiana State Bank Building on Ohio Street are contained in these folders.

D.C.

Folder 1	Resolution to form Association Letter to Baird Post No. 592 G.A.R. Dedication of Memorial Hall	6/15/10 N.D.
Folder 2	Subscription lists and related materials	1910, 1911
Folder 3	Correspondence about Memorial- Spencer Ball	1911-1912
Folder 4	Specifications Photograph of Old Curiosity Shop	N.D. N.D.
Folder 5	Clippings	1911

Rotogravure Section.

CAR



TERRE HAUTE MEMORIAL HALL, located on Ohio Street between 2nd and 3rd streets is indisputably one of the finest examples of 19th century Greek Revival architecture in this section of Indiana. The work was originally used as the Branch Bank of Indiana and was built between 1832 and 1834. Edwin J. Peck, a prominent Indiana architect-builder of the period, was superintendent of construction. The mark of its architectural significance is of course the facade, which imitates a Greek doric temple with four fluted columns, all supporting an entablature with a frieze of triglyphs and metopes: one triglyph over each column and one over each intercolumniation — the precise formula used in antiquity but rarely found in any 19th century revival works

The Terre Haute Tribune-Star.

Aug 9, 1970



Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Memorial (WV)

AUG 9, 1970

TERRE HAUTE MEMORIAL HALL, located on Ohio Street between 2nd and 3rd streets is indisputably one of the finest examples of 19th century Greek Revival architecture in this section of Indiana. The work was originally used as the Branch Bank of Indiana and was built between 1832 and 1834. Edwin J. Peck, a prominent Indiana architect-builder of the period, was superintendent of construction. The mark of its architectural significance is of course the facade, which imitates a Greek doric temple with four fluted columns, all supporting an entablature with a frieze of triglyphs and metopes: one triglyph over each column and one over each intercolumniation — the precise formula used in antiquity but rarely found in any 19th century revival works



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Community Affairs File

Terre Haute. Historic Landmarks

TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE

Tuesday, March 25, '69 3

Memorial Hall Campaign Is Gathering Momentum

By DICK SUTLIFF

Tribune Staff Writer

A campaign to raise \$4,000 to restore the interior and exterior of Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., is gathering momentum daily, with the latest report indicating donations to date totaling \$1,500.

The Memorial Hall Association, consisting of 13 members, is spearheading the drive to re-

pair the historic building, which was constructed in 1832, according to the stone and markers in front of the structure.

The campaign started about 10 days ago, as the association began soliciting individuals and organizations to help with its drive. Association officials look upon the project as a community endeavor, and ask all local residents to do their share.

Once Was Bank

The original purpose of the building was to house one of 13 branches of the State Bank of Indiana. The branch operated from 1834 until it was closed when its charter expired about 25 years later.

Following the Civil War the building was used as a meeting place for the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), hence the inscription "G.A.R." at the top of the structure. A museum was started with artifacts and pic-

tures of the Civil War.

About 1910, the Spanish-American War Veterans were given the task of continuing the upkeep of the hall. The Memorial Hall Association was organized, and has been in charge of the old building ever since.

The last major repairs to the structure were completed about 1921, according to an association spokesman. At that time, an addition was constructed on the rear of the building, the spokesman reported.

Meeting Place

The association consists of Spanish-American war veterans, and Barracks 912 of the Veterans of World War I. The United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, as well as other organizations, meet in Memorial Hall.

Funds the groups pay as rental for meeting space goes to help defray expenses of maintenance and services.

The office at Memorial Hall is being staffed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily while the drive is in progress so that those wishing may simply stop and make their contribution to the building project.

Those wishing to may call Memorial Hall, and a representative will be dispatched to the caller's home or place of business to pick up his or her donation.

INDIANA ROOM
PAMPHLET FILE



SLATED FOR REFURBISHING—Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., one of the landmarks of the community, is to be repaired and remodeled with \$4,000 being collected in a fund drive under way here. The campaign is conducted under the auspices of the Memorial Hall Association. (See story on Page 3.)

Photo by Martin

Tribune 3-25

\$700 Needed For Memorial Hall Fund

A fund established for the renovation of Memorial Hall is only \$700 short of the \$4,000 goal, according to a report given Thursday night during the regular meeting of the United War Veterans Council.

The goal is expected to be reached within 30 days, according to Alexander Heller.

Council members voted to remain in session throughout the summer months due to a heavy work load, according to Heller.

Presently, the council is concerned with a national cemetery project, a memorial bridge project and work involved in maintaining memorials to war dead in the city.

Post 104, American Legion,

TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE

Friday, June 20, 1969

will conduct a flag disposal ceremony June 25 at 8 p.m. at the post home in Twelve Points. Ritualistic burning ceremonies, following proper flag codes, will be conducted, according to Heller. Persons wishing to dispose of worn flags may participate, he said.

Memorial Hall Exterior Work Is Completed

Improvements to the exterior of Memorial Hall have been completed and the United War Veterans Council has now turned its attention to the renovation of the interior.

Don Coverstone, chairman of the project, said the interior will be decorated in new English style and hopes are that the work will be completed in time for an open house on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

After a history of being a bank and a shop, the building was purchased for the GAR veterans in 1910. It still has many relics of the Civil War and records of importance to Vigo history in it.

Thus far \$1,319.50 has been donated toward the project and all the work has been done at cost.

As listed by Coverstone, contributors include Ben Blumberg, \$1,100; Veterans of Foreign War, Chapter 9, \$13; Claude Herbert Camp 38, \$25; court house employees, \$41; city hall employees, \$20; Wayne Newton Legion Post 346, \$25; Merchants of the East Side, \$80.50, and VFW Post 6574, \$15.

Coverstone said much more money will be needed to complete the project as planned. Donations can still be made by sending a check or money order to Memorial Hall Rehabilitation, Terre Haute, Ind.



MORE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT—Two weeks ago the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, led by Don Coverstone and a crew of painters, began the renovation of this historic Terre Haute landmark. Today the previously drab, rundown exterior of the GAR Memorial Hall at 219 Ohio street sparkles smartly with a new coat of white paint and red and blue lettering. The building once again is something of which the entire community and county can be proud.

Plans Announced For Veterans' Day

5-11-4-59
**Memorial Hall Open
House, Jet Show Set**

Veterans Day observance and parade committee workers last night announced parade plans and several new features for Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

New this year will be a special open house at the newly renovated Memorial Hall where a program will be presented at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The public will be urged to visit the historic hall and view the military relics there. Renovated by the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, Memorial Hall will be the resting place for war relics of all kinds donated by persons in the area.

+ + +

ALSO NEW will be the presence of an F-84F jet fighter on the Court House lawn. It was reported the craft will be displayed there indefinitely.

The parade will be much as usual with veterans' organizations, military units, labor representatives and others from the surrounding area participating. The Air National Guard will conduct a "fly over" during the parade with about 12 jet planes.

Halting at Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue at 11 o'clock, parade marchers will witness a brief memorial service. Giving the prayer this year will be Maj. John Allen, United States Army chaplain, retired.

+ + +

ALL VETERANS' organizations will hold open houses with free food all day.

Co-chairmen of this year's Veterans' Day committee are Lieut. Arthur L. Goldman of the National Guard and Claude Sterling, commander of Krietenstein Post 104, American Legion. Fred Schwartz will serve as parade marshal.

Veterans to Renovate Memorial Hall

A Terre Haute landmark, historic Memorial Hall, is going to present a new face to the public.

Painting of the building's exterior started this week under the sponsorship of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, and extensive window repairs are being handled by Sam Sterchi, carpenter contractor. Chairman of the Hall's improvements is Don Coverstone.

Memorial Hall, which is located immediately south of the Vigo County Courthouse building, once housed one of Indiana's first banks. It was later operated as the "Old Curiosity Shop" and still later as the GAR building. The building's abstract dates back to 1822.

In 1910 a committee was formed to purchase the building for the GAR veterans. The committee, composed of Nicholas Filbeck, George W. Krietenstein, Homer L. Steers, Thomas C. Williams, Jesse Robertson, Thomas J. Keylon, Lawrence Burget, Marx Myers, James Lyons, Louis Gerhardt, Frank C. Crawford and David Denny, each contributed \$500 so that they could purchase the building for the use of the GAR and all veterans that may follow.

At the present time there are many Civil War relics as well as many volumes of books on the histories of various Vigo County organizations as well as the records and activities of many of the

Continued On Page 9, Column 1.



A MUCH NEEDED and welcome improvement in the Third and Ohio sector is the renovation of Memorial Hall. A joint effort of all veterans' groups in the county, the project also will include elimination of the building on the left which has served as a J.P. office. Veterans agree that the Hall, a real landmark in the city, should be preserved for present and future generations.

Photo by Martin.

Vets Renovate Memorial Hall

Continued From Page One.

Civil War battles. In addition to the pictures of many of the war's heroes there are photos of many of the prominent citizens of early Terre Haute.

Due to the passing of all GAR members, the hall has been taken over by the United Spanish War Veterans. They will, in turn, relinquish it to the Veterans of World War I, who will release it to the World War II and Korean Veterans. Every veteran is a part of the building.

At one time, Jerry Fitzgerald and Tom Cottam, through solicitations, secured enough money to put an addition on the rear of the building.

The hall is controlled by a board of trustees. One of them, Edward Harper, recently passed away. Dale Dickson was elected to his place on the board. The upkeep of the building is provided by its organizations for meetings and other activities. This income, however, does not amount to enough to keep it in satisfactory condition. At the present time it is rather run-down.

The United War Veterans Council of Vigo County has plans to help make the building an attractive landmark. The Council is composed of all the veterans organization in the county, each post being represented on the Council by delegates. The officers of the Council are: Dale Dickson, commander; William Lee, vice commander; Norris Shake, quartermaster; Thomas Waldon Sr., adjutant; Victor

Joslyn, chaplain, and Florian Olbrich, chairman of Graves Registration.

Each veterans' organization in the county is being asked to supply some members to assist in the rejuvenation. Commander Dickson has appointed the following committee to act as recruiters in their organizations for the purpose of getting help in the project—

American Legion: Don Coverstone, Post 346, chairman; Fred Schwartz, Post 40; Wave O'Conner, Post 104; Thomas Waldon Sr., Post 340; Ed Fagin, Post 328; Robert L. Power, Post 404.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Charles Neukom, Post 972; Warren Barber, Post 1005; and Paul Frost, Post 6574.

Veterans of World War I: Florian Olbrich, Barracks 912; Paul Liston, Barracks 861; John Brown, Barracks 1649.

United Spanish War Veterans: Norris Shake.

Disabled American Veterans, Otto Smith.

Jewish War Veterans, Daniel Rader.

As no county funds are available for this much needed undertaking it must be done by public donations from citizens that want to see this, one of the last remaining historical buildings in Terre Haute preserved.

Donations in any amount may be mailed to Don Coverstone, chairman United War Veterans Council, 400 North Seventh street.

After the building gets its new look the council plans to display many war relics and mementos and steps are being made to secure many items from military centers in the United States. Those interested in making Terre Haute a more beautiful city through their contributions are invited to help revitalize Memorial Hall.

Historic Landmarks (WW) - Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall still awaiting facelift

Is this 1985

By Dave Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Terre Haute's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall — constructed in 1834 and the community's oldest building — remains a victim of neglect.

"Nothing's been done to it yet," said H. Dale Baker, secretary of the 13-member Memorial Hall Association, which has owned the building since 1912. "People won't put their money where their mouth is."

Six months ago, Baker was quoted as saying, "The First National Bank has been doing a lot of bragging about the building, but

they haven't come up with any big contributions for it."

First National Bank President Donald Smith said association president John Kessler called in the past six months, but nothing was worked out to restore the historical building.

"This is on the back burner," Smith said about a restoration project. "Nothing's been done."

The white building with large white pillars at Ohio and Third streets requires between \$250,000 and \$300,000 for restoration and a new heating system, Baker said, quoting local construction consultant Shelton Hannig.

"I've been told there are people who would contribute heavily to

restoring this building," which was standing when Abraham Lincoln visited here, Baker said. He added, "I'd get the necessary people if a group of people would like to put some money in escrow for repairing the building."

Baker said the project would cost about \$150,000 if volunteers were used. "That \$300,000 figure would be using union labor," he said. "The building is sound structurally with big timbers underneath...It needs attention to windows, doors and also needs some painting and plastering."

Two fundraisers in the past year raised approximately \$1,200.

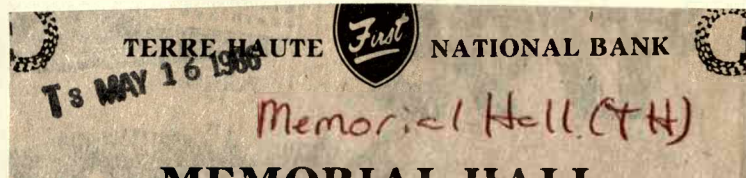
"We raised \$900 by stopping cars with cannisters," explained Baker.

He said a ladies aid organization raised another \$300 with cannisters at local supermarkets.

But Baker said, "We contacted the local United War Veterans council, but they seemed reluctant to help."

Baker said groups still renting the building for \$50 to conduct meetings include the Disabled American Veterans, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Vigo County REACT and the Friendship Home Economic Club.

Kessler is president of Memorial Hall Association, while Dan Hatcher is vice-president. The association has 13 members.



MEMORIAL HALL

Community Affairs File

Memorial Hall, present home of the Grand Army of the Republic, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled War Veterans is located on the South side of Ohio Street, opposite the south entrance of the Vigo County Court House. It is one of the oldest buildings in the city. It was erected in 1834 as the home of the Branch Bank of the State of Indiana, predecessor to Terre Haute National Bank. The Grecian style of architecture and its massive columns are a witness to its once stately grandeur. When the finances of the State and the Nation were in a muddled condition in the early days, this state bank was an outstanding institution. It was said of it, as could not be said of many of the banking institutions of that day, "it was an honest

bank that paid its debts and made money for the state".

Several years ago the building was taken over by the Memorial Hall Association, whose members are named from several of the Patriotic Societies of the city and it is devoted purely to patriotic purposes. The original part of the building stands as it was first erected 150 years ago but an addition has been built in the rear for meeting of the civic societies which have their headquarters there.

Today, Memorial Hall houses portraits of well known citizens who were identified with the early history of the city, and of soldiers of the Civil War who were leaders in the great conflict. Also housed are relics of the Spanish American and World Wars.

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Vigo County Public Library

Historic Landmarks (w) -
Memorial Hall

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Memorial Hall faces new round of uncertainty as winter nears

By Dave Delaney ^{DEC 2 1988}
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The fate of Gov.-elect B. Evan Bayh III's favorite Hoosier historic building — Memorial Hall at 219 Ohio St. — still has not been determined.

The November-December issue of Preservationist magazine reported Terre Haute's oldest building "Gets Evan Bayh's vote" as his favorite historic building in the state.

Marc Elliott, president of the Terre Haute Sanitary District, hopes the classic Greek Revival structure — on the eve of its 154th Hoosier winter — may be acquired by the district, hopefully by spring.

Historic Landmarks (W) - M
"This is in the idea stage right now," said Elliott. "A lot more homework needs to be done."

Elliott said last year's Indiana General Assembly approved of the concept to provide grant money equal to 50 percent of the cost of renovation of historic Hoosier buildings.

He said this year's General Assembly may provide up to \$2 million to fund the projects. Elliott said hopefully some of that money could go to renovating Memorial Hall. "We'd have to get the other half of the money for this project elsewhere," he said.

The building has been deteriorating over the years, according to Shelton Hannig, a member of the 12-member Memorial Hall Association.

tion.

Hannig said it could cost up to \$200,000 to renovate the building. "We have no financial involvement with the building," said Hannig. "We're just custodians until the transfer is made."

He said the more time that goes by the more expensive the project of restoring the building will be.

Dorothy Clark, secretary of the association, said a piece of rolled roofing blew off the top of the building, falling on two vehicles.

She said for the last month, the building has not been used by veterans' groups as a meeting site. "This is an important building and must be saved," Clark said.

The structure is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Building renovator in need of tenants

1st AUG 11 1988

Historic Landmarks

By Dave Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Daniel E. Sanders would like to restore aging Memorial Hall to some of its former glory, but he needs more people interested in renting space in Terre Haute's oldest building to do that. "You'd think people would flock to the building," said Sanders, a local architect. "That's not the case."

The structure at 219 Ohio St. was built in 1835 as a branch of the State Bank of Indiana.

Sanders agreed to accept the building free from the Memorial Hall Association on June 6, under the provision that he would restore it along historical lines.

Sanders would like to use 1,500 square feet of the 6,500-square-foot building as office space for his architectural business. He would rent out the remaining space at \$10 a square foot. He said with 100 percent occupancy, justified expenditure to restore the building would then amount to \$210,000.

Sanders would like to get renters who are professional people or other suitable clients to share the building with him, he explained.

"We don't know which way to go on this now," said Dorothy Clark of the Memorial Hall Association. "You'd think we'd be able to give a

building away."

Clark, also the official Vigo County historian, said the building has had many uses in its long life, including being home to a piano store, curiosity shop and an antique shop.

"I think it would be the perfect place for some attorneys," said Clark of the building across the street from the county courthouse.

The building is on the National Register of Historic Places so its architectural style cannot be altered, said Clark. The Historic Landmark Foundation of Indiana would help the restorer of the building with guidance, said Shelton Hannig, another board member.

"We're disappointed at this point," Hannig said. "We're still seeking someone to preserve the building."

Hannig said Sanders did not sign a legal document binding him to the original agreement. "He had agreed verbally to proceed with this," Hannig continued. "We're just sorry he couldn't do it."

Hannig said cost of restoring the building depends on the occupancy that goes into it and the way in which it would be restored.

"Someone who goes in there could do their own remodeling," Hannig suggested. "There are other combinations that are yet to be worked out."

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Historic Landmarks (WV) —

Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall (TH)

Memorial Hall group wants to restore building

Community Affairs File

1's MAY 6 1986

The Memorial Hall Association has elected officers and decided to begin a drive for restoring the historic hall.

Acting president Danny Hatcher was elected president last week; Randy Harrington, vice president; and Dale Baker of West Terre Haute, secretary-treasurer.

Harrington, who also is county building inspector, was asked to

clear the title to the building and determine the legal status of the board. Board member Fred Sutton said Harrington located the deed to the property dated Sept. 9, 1910.

Other board members elected or re-elected to the 13-member board include Kenneth Shook and William Toy, representing World War I veterans; Fred Sutton, Roy Smith, John Nipple and Al Heller,

representing World War II veterans; organized labor representatives William Eyre and Richard Weir; local contractor/architect Shelton Hannig; and Vigo County historian Dorothy Clark.

Local attorney James Ball has been unofficial legal adviser for several months.

Clark says Memorial Hall, originally a federal bank building, is

listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is Terre Haute's oldest building.

"It would be a shame if we can't work together to restore it," she said.

The Memorial Hall Association includes veterans' organizations and interested friends and businessmen.

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Vigo County Public Library

Historic Landmarks
**Preservation
of GAR hall (u)
proceeds**

T s JAN 28 1988

The organization seeking to restore Memorial Hall — the oldest building in Terre Haute — is now legally incorporated.

Articles of incorporation for Memorial Hall Association were accepted by the state last week.

Dorothy Clark, secretary of the association, said it is getting appraisals on Memorial Hall because value of the building at Third and Ohio streets needs to be established before improvements to it can be made.

Because the building is listed on the National Register, only certain improvements can be made to it, Clark said.

"We plan to tear the back room down," Clark said. "It is not part of the original structure, so it doesn't come under historical restrictions.

"It is the oldest building in Terre Haute," Clark said. "It was built in 1835, and was a chartered state bank. There were 13 branch banks scattered over the state, with only the one here and in Vincennes left."

Clark said a committee has been formed to consider possibilities for using the building. She said some possibilities include restoring it as a bank or business.

The building presently houses some Civil War and World War I memorabilia, but those could be moved to a museum for better safekeeping, Clark said.

Mayor promises city committed to old hall

APR 1 1949

Historic Landmarks (W)

Mayor P. Pete Chalos said Monday that the city is committed to restoring Memorial Hall and using it for some city offices.

"There is some state legislation that has yet to be acted on that would assist in the renovation of the building," the mayor said. "We would like to have that money to help with the restoration, but we are committed to the project in any event."

The mayor said he planned a trip to Indianapolis on Monday afternoon to "nose around" on the status of the legislation.

The funding in the proposed measure, which has been altered several times, would help restore buildings like Memorial Hall on a 50-50 basis, the mayor said.

If the state fails to come through with money, he said the city would find some way to do the project on its own. "We would do some of the work needed such as repair the roof and other basic things until such time that the funding would

become available."

Dorothy J. Clark, secretary of the hall's board, said she foresaw no problems with the transfer of the building and that the 12-member board is ready to do so as soon as attorneys from both sides sit down and settle the language of takeover. She said there would be no money involved in the transfer.

Chalos said the building would be used as an annex for some city offices. "We would move the sanitary district offices and some engineering offices into Memorial Hall."

Harry Frey, the mayor's administrative assistant, said the city began considering taking over the building earlier this year.

Clark, Vigo County historian, said the building was built in 1834-35 and was chartered as the Terre Haute branch of the State Bank of Indiana, a financial institution created by the Indiana General Assembly and chartered for 25 years only.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
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Historic Landmarks (WV) *Memorial Hall*
JUN 24 1988
Committee acted rightly to save Memorial Hall

To the Editor:

Since right after World War II, many veterans and the United War Veterans Council have pondered the question of how to renovate and maintain Memorial Hall, which in earlier years was called the G.A.R. building. The dream was to have it properly renovated and maintained with the front part as a well-managed military museum and the back part to be used for various civic meetings.

The museum could have been a fine tourist attraction. The care of the building was vested in a board of trustees with the personnel varied at times. Some of the present trustees are persons who are very dedicated and civic- and historically-minded and have seriously given their time and studied this problem.

At the June monthly meeting of the United War Veterans Council, Danny Hatcher gave a report of the hall trustees' course of action to renovate the hall and maintain it. That is to sell it to an architect and rent out office space for

funds to maintain it.

After hearing the report and knowing that time is of essence because of the building's condition, it was unanimously agreed by those present that under today's situation this is the best solution to this old problem of preserving the landmark building. All of the furnishings and military artifacts will be inventoried and stored in a safe building until such time when a way can be found to set up a military museum that can be properly managed and maintained. It was also agreed the present board of trustees should be commended for their time, study and dedication. The board has had an open ear in the event anyone had a better, workable solution. Now many of us can feel relieved to know a landmark has been saved, and a thank you is in order for those dedicated trustees.

— Fred W. Schwartz
— United War Veterans Council
— of Vigo County

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
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changes hands

Oldest building tentatively

Historic Landmarks (wv) - Memorial Hall

By Dave Delaney JUN 07 1968
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Memorial Hall, Terre Haute's oldest building, has tentatively been sold to local architect Dan Sanders.

"Being given a trust like this is a big responsibility," said Sanders, when asked to comment on the Monday evening decision of the Memorial Hall Association Inc. to sell Sanders the building with certain restrictions.

The building at 219 Ohio St. was constructed in 1835 as a branch of the State Bank of Indiana. Today, only two of the branches remain — Terre Haute's and

another in Vincennes.

"The building was here around the time Abraham Lincoln visited Terre Haute," commented Sanders, who said he would move his architectural business to the building and rent space to other firms.

"They would have to be professional people," he explained, "attorneys, certified public accountants and so forth."

The board also went on record as agreeing to get the Historic Landmark Foundation of Indiana in on the agreement. "This is the most lasting move we could make," said board member Shelton Hannig.

The board empowered a three-member committee to proceed with negotiations with the Historic Landmark Foundation of

Indiana on the transaction. It also decided to return all items donated to the hall to their original owners.

Those not picked up by owners would be given to the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County to dispose of as it sees fit.

"This will be the first property the foundation has accepted from west-central Indiana," said Hannig. He said the foundation asks for a contribution of around \$10,000 for its part in the arrangement. Its responsibility includes enforcing compliance of all provisions agreed upon between involved parties.

Provisions would include such things as not altering the outside of the building and maintaining historical integrity inside.

Sanders would have to pay that amount

and the cost of restoring the building to acceptable standards. Restoration cost could amount to approximately \$200,000.

"They act as a catalyst in putting this together," Hannig explained. "They try to turn it over to someone who is responsible." He said if the deal with Sanders should ever fall through for whatever reason, the foundation would step back in and help find another party to take over preservation and maintenance of the building.

Sanders said the building has to be restored quickly. He realizes the Memorial Hall Association never had the money to properly get the needed work accomplished over the years.

Before Sanders can begin restoring the building, the foundation has to approve of the arrangement struck Monday in Terre Haute.

Board secretary Dorothy Clark said the building needs new lighting, heating and plumbing.

"We have taken a giant step forward for our community," added Clark, describing the building as the most important in Terre Haute. She also said it's time local veterans groups be relieved of the financial burden of taking care of the aging building at 219 Ohio.

"This is one of the most dramatic things this community has done," commented board member Ray Ingram.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
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Memorial Hall preservationists take steps to retain old structure

Historic Landmarks (WW)

The first steps toward preserving Memorial Hall as a historic site were taken Monday.

A special meeting of the Memorial Hall Association board passed a list of proposed articles of acceptance as provided by the Indiana Not-For-Profit Act of 1971. Board attorney James Ball will forward the document to the state.

The action is a first step toward any move to preserve the building, board secretary Dorothy Clark said.

Memorial Hall was chartered in 1834 as one of 10 branches of a state banking system. It is one of only two banks of the original 10

known to remain standing, said Thomas Krasean, director of the Field Services Division of the Indiana Historical Society.

After the building was abandoned as a bank, it became the property of Vigo County veterans. The building continued to deteriorate because the Veterans Council and other veterans' groups trying to keep the bills paid were unable to generate enough money for repairs.

From time to time, local businessmen and labor groups donated materials and work in an attempt to sustain the building.

TS NOV 27 1987

About one year ago, the board governing Memorial Hall was reorganized and members have worked under the direction of board president Danny Hatcher to straighten out the tangled deed and other legal matters. Hatcher and other board members represent veterans' interests on the board.

Once ownership is firmly established and the board has a legal right to act as a not-for-profit, incorporated body, fund-raising efforts can begin.

The hope is to preserve, renovate and maintain Memorial Hall.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Memorial Hall reorganizes in hopes of getting gifts

By Liz Ciancone
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Steps toward restoring Memorial Hall have been taken with the hope that citizens will get behind the efforts of a new board governing the Memorial Hall Association.

The 13-member board should be up to full strength following the March 11 board meeting, association president Danny Hatcher said Thursday. Only one board vacancy remains to be filled.

Hatcher was re-elected board president last week. Other officers are: Randell Herrington, vice president; Dorothy J. Clark, secretary; and John B. Nipple, treasurer.

"We will be reviewing our constitution and by-laws," Hatcher said. "We will also be looking at what projects are necessary for restoration and how the work can be financed."

The new board will conduct a spring open house, which Hatcher hopes will "show people what's there and raise awareness of what needs to be done."

Cleanup has begun with the removal of old heating registers. New heating units have been installed in the kitchen and the addition. Hatcher added that some work has been done on the windows.

Also, some of the military memorabilia have been lent to the

Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley.

The resignation of four long-time board members, William Toy, Kenneth Shook, Richard Weir and William Eyre, has cleared the way for new members. Veterans will still be represented by Hatcher and Ed Grindle, who is president of the United War Veterans Council.

Memorial Hall — one of 12 state banks established early in Indiana's history — is the forerunner of Terre Haute First National Bank, which will be represented on the board by Ray Ingram.

Remaining board members are: Fred Sutton, Roy Smith Sr., Shelton Hannig, James A. Ball, Davis Lewis and Max Miller.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

After all these years, GAR building needs aid

By Dave Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

What's to become of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Vigo County's oldest remaining business building?

Constructed in 1834 as the Terre Haute branch of the State Bank of Indiana, the GAR building was standing when Abraham Lincoln used to visit his Terre Haute attorney friend Richard W. Thompson. It's withstood 151 Hoosier winters but is now in need of major restoration.

The white building with the large white pillars is located on Ohio Street across from the Vigo County Courthouse. It's considered the community's best example of Greek Revival classic architecture and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

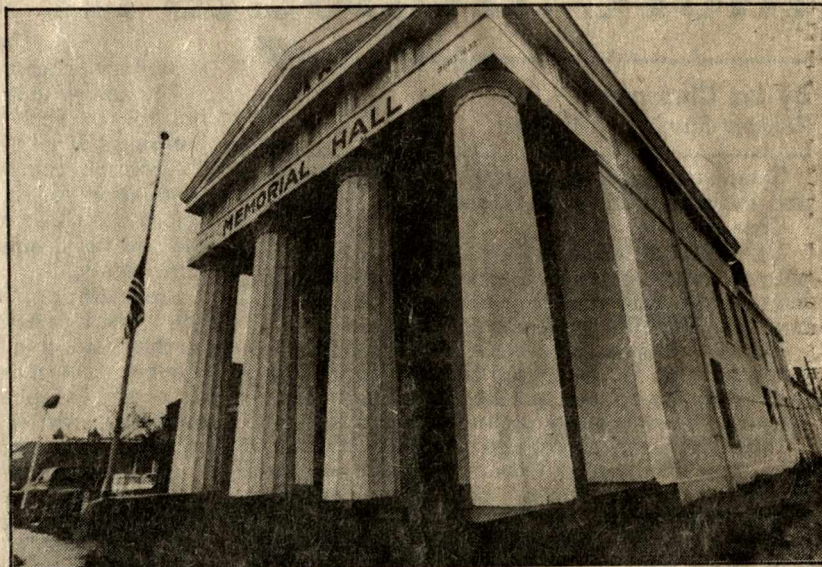
"A band-aid measure such as spending a few hundred dollars for paint won't do the job," said Vigo County historian Dorothy Clark, of cosmetic measures to save the aging building.

Shelton Hannig, Hannig Construction Inc., said between \$250,000 and \$300,000 would be needed for a complete overhaul of the building. "There's a lot of deterioration in every facet of that building," said Hannig, who has inspected Memorial Hall.

H. Dale Baker is secretary of the Memorial Hall Association, which has had deed to the building since 1912.

"We need a new heating system," Baker said, explaining that the heating system froze last year. He said his organization doesn't have the funds to keep a custodian at the building all the time.

Utilities are paid by DAV Chapter 9, according to Fred Sutton of the Memorial Hall Association.



Tribune-Star

Stands tall: Building fronts Ohio Street.

tion.

While the place is not as active as it once was, Baker said a number of groups still meet there on a regular basis. Among them are the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 9, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Vigo County REACT, Friendship Home Economic Club and several church groups. Family reunions also take place there.

The GAR has long been a repository for military paraphernalia. "We used to have lots more medals, uniforms and mannequins," Baker said. "Things have been carried away ... and now we have just a couple mannequins."

Sutton said no insurance covers the building or its contents. "It's too expensive," he said. Only liability insurance is carried on the structure, he said.

Baker said finding a group to provide financial assistance for the building has been all but impossible. He said he doesn't think there's a historical group here that would do it.

"The First National Bank has been doing a lot of bragging about the building," said Baker, "but they haven't come up with any big contributions for it."

First National Bank traces its own beginnings to the building's first occupants — the State Bank of Indiana, which opened there 151 years ago.

"We have some interest in the building," said Donald Smith, First National Bank president, indicating that interest springs from the building's original use. "However we haven't been approached by anyone on this."

T FEB 25 1982

Efforts made to restore Memorial Hall group

By KATHY DENNIS
Tribune Staff Writer

After having no formal meetings since 1977, the Memorial Hall Association is getting back together again.

"We feel it should be made active, and (we want) to upgrade it and make it a viable association," said Fred Schwartz, association secretary.

The association was formed in the early 1900s for the purpose of maintaining Memorial Hall, located at 219 Ohio Street across from the Vigo County Courthouse.

Schwartz said he encourages anyone interested in preserving and upgrading the hall to attend a meeting at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the hall. Thirteen trustees/directors will be elected at this time.

"Those who are interested don't have to be veterans," he said. "We want the interest of all citizens."

Only about eight of the last 13 trustees elected to the association are still in town or alive, Schwartz said. Although a few informal meetings have been conducted since 1977, no formal sessions with minutes have occurred, he added.

The association went inactive because of the difficulty in getting trustees together for meetings, Schwartz said. "Some of them were very old."

The few remaining active trustees are now looking for fresh input into the organization, so that such ideas as obtaining government grants, establishing the building as a museum and changing the constitutional by-laws can go forward.

The meeting Wednesday is a start in this direction, Schwartz said.

"There is interest, we know there is," he said, "and that would be an important thing to maintain here."

Memorial Hall has the distinction of being one of

the oldest commercial buildings in Terre Haute. It was originally built as a bank and went on to house such organizations as GAR and a civil war group.

Association officials right now are looking into the possibility of their getting a governmental grant. Also, they would like to make their constitutional by-laws less "vague," Schwartz said.

"We'd like to have some expression from those

interested to guide us (in updating the by-laws,)" he added.

In speaking of plans to establish the hall as a museum, Schwartz commented, "It would be nice to make a public exhibition place out of it," explaining that for the association to get public funds in the form of a grant, the structure must have some public use.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

TH, Memorial Hall

W^{NBC}2 editorial

W-TWO Television Center, Ph.232-9504, P.O. Box 299, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

Reasonable opportunity to reply to this editorial will be afforded to a responsible person or group representing a significant opposing viewpoint.

August 25, 1970
7:00 AM, 5:30 PM
& 11:00 PM

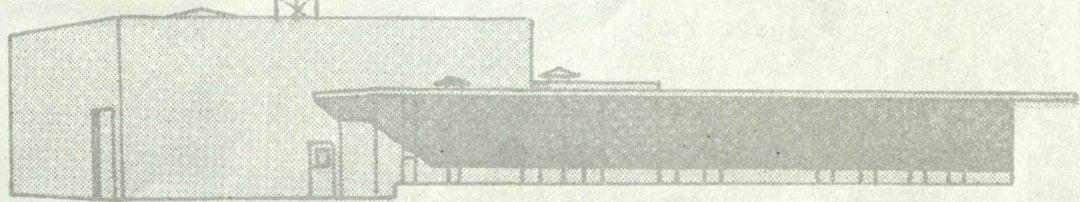
The preservation of notable historical and architectural landmarks is something that all citizens should appreciate. In recent weeks, Memorial Hall, located on Ohio Street across from the Court House, has undergone a badly needed facelifting. The exterior of the building has been completely painted, which has helped to improve the appearance of the entire west end of the community. During the past year, the inside of the building was painted.

This work was authorized by the 13 trustees of the Memorial Hall Association headed by Sam Grafe of Terre Haute. Several thousand dollars were collected by public subscription. We think the trustees are to be complimented for renovating this historic structure. This not only goes along with the concept of beautification, but does much to preserve the community's rich heritage.

Memorial Hall was build between 1832 and 1834 and was originally used as a bank. It is said to be one of the finest examples of 19th century Greek Revival Architecture to be found in this section of the state. There are historical items inside the building dating back to Civil War days that the public is probably not aware of.

The past few years have seen the disappearance of several landmarks in the Terre Haute community. We're pleased that Memorial Hall is being taken care of for present and future generations to enjoy.

John T. Gelder, Jr.



Memorial Hall Oldest Vigo Business Building

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Tribune Staff Writer

Indisputably one of the finest examples of 19th century Greek Revival architecture in this section of Indiana, Memorial Hall, located at 219 Ohio St., was built as a Branch Bank of the State Bank of Indiana in 1834.

Edwin J. Peck, a prominent Indiana architect-builder of the period, was superintendent of construction. All branch banks in the state were built from the same set of plans.

The mark of its architectural significance is, of course, the facade, which imitates a Greek doric temple with four fluted columns, all supporting an entablature with a frieze of triglyphs and metopes; one triglyph over each column and one over each of intercolumniation, the precise formula used in antiquity, but rarely found in any 19th century revival works.

Plans Store

The old bank occupied the first floor under a large domed skylight. The second floor was fitted up as a residence for the bank cashier's living quarters. When National banks were organized in 1865, the bank ceased operation, and the building was sold to Lorenze Kussner as a commercial store for selling musical instruments. His family occupied the living quarters. His daughters, Amalia Kussner Coudert, won world-wide fame as a miniature painter. A talented family, they fitted up one room with a stage on which were given many theatrical performances.

After several changes and the sale of the property by the Kussners, the building became a second-hand shop known as "The Old Curiosity Shop." Its owner, Zebulon Heaberlin, sold the building to the GAR Memorial Hall Association who maintained it as their headquarters for Civil War veterans' groups, the Women's Relief Corps, and other patriotic societies. It became a repository of war relics and photographs of veterans.

Escapes Demolition

In the early 1920's the building was condemned by the Fire

Marshal and was slated for removal when a fund-raising campaign was begun by local baker Jeremiah "Jerry" Fitzgerald. Through his efforts, and those of Thomas Cottom, Civil War veteran, and many public-minded officials and citizens, enough funds were raised to renovate and refurbish the dilapidated structure.

Changing hands again, the building came into the care of the Memorial Hall Association, and was in the care of, first, the Spanish American War veterans, then the World War I veterans, and now the the United War Veterans Council.

A large addition was built on for a meeting room, kitchen and serving facilities were added, but the original part of the building remains very much as it was when the bank opened its doors in 1834. Banking "in the round" was the accepted arrangement in those days, and the tellers cages were lighted from the daylight coming

through the skylight, or candles on a dark day.

Used By Veterans

In addition to its architectural significance, and the fact that it is one of the very few buildings of its type left in Indiana, it is the oldest commercial building left in the City of Terre Haute.

Its Civil War significance, as well as its use by veterans of all the past wars of the United States, makes it unique in military relics and historical importance in this community.

Fine art glass portraits of Civil War heroes and early bankers of Terre Haute are still in place around the domed ceiling skylight.

Word was received earlier this week from U.S. Rep. John T. Myers, R-7th Dist., that the historic building has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The application was filed by the Vigo County Historical Society several months ago.

Memorial Hall Association *Spectator* Fund Drive - Deserves Your Help

ACCORDING to the stone and markers in front of the building at 214 Ohio St., Memorial Hall was erected in the year 1832. The original building purpose was that of a State Bank. This was one of five in the State of Indiana and as far as we know is the last to survive.

After the Civil War and after State Banks were out of vogue, Civil War Veterans were given the right to use the building as a meeting place: hence the inscription on top of the building, "GAR." The Civil War Veterans collected objects, artifacts and pictures of the Civil War and placed them in front room of the building and this was the beginning of the Museum which is now being added to.

Sometime after the turn of the Century, some say around 1910 the Veterans of the Spanish-American War were given the task of continuing the work of the Civil War Veterans in regard to the Memorial. It was at this time that the Memorial Association came into being and began functioning. The Association has maintained and kept the building in condition and safe from destruction until now.

Around 1921, a businessman, Jerry Fitzgerald, and Tom Cottom provided the money for repairs and additional building of a room in the back of the building. This is the last time any major repairs and refurbishing of the building was made.

At the present time the Association consists of Spanish-American Veterans and Veterans of World War I Barracks 912. The present drive which is the first drive to collect monies for the restoration of the building is under the auspices of the Memorial Hall Association.

At present and in addition to the above Veterans groups using the Hall as a meeting place, the United War Veterans Council which came into existence shortly after the first World War has accepted the hall as a permanent meeting place. Other groups, such as Unions, Lodges, and other affiliations use the hall as a meeting place, paying a nominal rent, this rent money is used to defray the expense of maintenance and services.

The present drive was kicked off about a week ago. Contacts have been made with some business men and the response has been good. Plans are in effect to contact all groups and associations within the city to complete the drive. Required is 4,000 dollars to restore the building inside and outside.

The Association is also soliciting individual citizens from all walks of life and hope they too will contribute thus making the whole project a community effort. There will be a person at Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio Street during the hours 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM until the drive can be accomplished. All persons may drop in at the Hall and make their contribution if they so desire. In the event they are not in the area and desire a pick up they may phone 232-9877 and someone will come to their home and pick up their contribution. The person will have authorization in his pocket to be produced before contributions are made.

Finally, the Association hopes to make this Memorial a State and National Museum for the benefit of future generations.

INDIANA ROOM

PAMPHLET FILE

Memorial Hall Assn.

Community Affairs

APR 16 1976

Against Jet Removal

The Memorial Hall Association has gone on record opposing efforts of Green Horizons Inc. to remove a jet fighter plane from the lawn at the Vigo County Courthouse.

The action came during the recent annual meeting. The Association pointed out that the plane was placed on the lawn as a memorial, and emphasized that a memorial garden could be planted in other locations around the courthouse block.

Green Horizons is a part of a Bicentennial beautification

program.

Officers for 1976-1977 were elected at the annual meeting held at Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St. They include Harold Jones, president; John A. Kesler, vice-president; Edgar Fagin, treasurer, and Joe Bilyou, secretary. All were unopposed.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Memorial Hall Donations Now Total \$1,752

Community Affairs File

Work on the restoration of Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., is continuing, according to information released by co-chairmen John Kesler and Roy D. Smith Sr. They have expressed the hope that enough work will be completed so that an "Open House" may be scheduled for Memorial Day, May 30.

Additional donations of cash have raised the total contribution to \$1,752.50. Donations of material or equipment have been made by K.W. Barton, Sears Roebuck and Co., Montgomery Ward and Co., the Vigo County Highway Department, Braden Manufacturing Co., Mack VanHoutin and Ethyl Visqueen.

Food furnished by Barracks 912, Veterans of World War I and prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Barracks is provided to the workers each Saturday. Because of a scheduled Service Seminar this Saturday, there will be no work done on the restoration project, but volunteer workers will again be welcomed the following Saturday, April 23.

Painters and pipe fitters are most in demand at this time and volunteers are asked to call Roy Smith, 466-4162, after 5 p.m.

Kesler and Smith have expressed their appreciation for all the assistance and donations received to date, specifically to the following: from Carpenters Union Local 133, Frank Conto, Leon Huff, Gordon Haworth, Walter McMahan, Mark Goffinett, Jerry Haver, John Myers, Doug Grindle, John Kastigar, Blaine Chandler, Bob Furnas and Dave Griffith;

Also, from Laborers International Local 204, Earl Slavens, Jerry A. Lee, William Peoples, Mike Short, William Ayre, Carl Hill, Leslie Kennedy, Paul Kennedy and Bob Gibson.

Retired plasterer Forrest Hudson has assisted with repair work to the dome and the side walls, and Jim Miller, Robert

Eugene Smith, Fred Sutton and several members of Barracks 912 have assisted with the clean-up and loading of the truck.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

AUG 23 1976



Community Affairs File
WAR VETERANS SEEK TO RESTORE MEMORIAL HALL — John A. Kesler, commander of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, announced Monday the kick-off of a fund-raising drive to restore the GAR Memorial Hall, located across from the Vigo County Courthouse. Kesler, calling for contributions to a Memorial Hall Improvement Fund, said that "if we don't move quickly (to restore the building), it may soon be too late ." Story on page 2.

House of Photography Photo

Community Affairs File

Launch Drive to Restore GAR Memorial Hall Here

T AUG 23 1976

By WAYNE PERRY
Tribune Staff Writer

Local attorney John A. Kesler, who serves as the commander of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, announced Monday plans to conduct a major restoration project at the GAR Memorial Hall, located across from the Vigo County Courthouse.

Kesler said the GAR Memorial Hall and its contents "are literally permeated with local history, priceless and irreplaceable, but if we don't move quickly it may soon be too late."

In order to accomplish the restoration, Kesler noted that a fund-raising campaign would be conducted and that a Memorial Hall Improvement Fund has been established.

Kesler took over as commander of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County earlier this year and immediately began work to save the local landmark, which is the oldest commercial building in Vigo County.

The Memorial Hall Association, composed mostly of World War I veterans, was called into special session. The corporate affairs were put into order, new

officers were elected and Kesler did the work to bring to date the title and abstract on the Memorial Hall.

"The next step," Kesler said, "is to get some money and work put into this beautiful building and restore it to the place of elegance and pride it once had. That takes money, and I have the confidence to believe the citizens of this community will come through. The alternative is unthinkable."

"We will be calling on the individuals and businesses of this community for the financial help needed," Kesler added.

"The labor unions have been most generous to us with their services in the past and we sincerely hope they will rally to the cause again. Many of their members are also veterans and take great pride in this building.

"We'll need the help of the ladies too, for the inside and the contents have accumulated decades of smoke and dirt that calls for a good housecleaning," he continued.

Contributions to help restore the facility may be mailed to the Memorial Hall Improvement Fund, 219 Ohio St., Terre Haute. Individuals or organizations needing information or

desiring to have projects of their own to raise money for the fund are encouraged to contact Kesler.

Memorial Hall was originally built to be a branch of the State Bank of Indiana in 1834. When the bank ceased operation in 1865 the building was sold to Lorenze Kussner, who operated a musical instruments store and lived at the site.

The facility subsequently went through various other owners and uses and in 1920 was barely saved from demolition with a fund-raising drive by a local man.

The Memorial Hall Association was formed to hold legal ownership and the building was placed in the care of the Spanish-American War veterans, then the World War I veterans, and now the United War Veterans Council.

The mark of the GAR Memorial Hall's architectural significance is the facade that imitates a Greek doric temple with four fluted columns supporting an entablature with a frieze of triglyphs and metopes—the precise formula used in antiquity, but rarely found in 19th Century works.

Inside the facility are glass portraits of local historic figures and relics of several past wars, including the Civil War.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Work Progresses At Memorial Hall

Community Affairs File

APR 15 1977

Restoration of Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., is moving right along, but help is still needed. As was reported a couple of weeks ago, donations of money, material and labor are needed to get the job completed.

"It is hoped to get enough of the work done to have an open house on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30," John Kesler, co-chairman of the project, said.

Donations previously reported totaled \$1,637.50. In the past two weeks another \$115.00 has been received making the total now \$1,752.50. The latest contributors are: American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 501, \$10; Evelyn S. Price, \$10; Alberta Phillips, \$10; Arthur W. Price, \$15; Pocahontas Lodge No. 349, \$20; Bethlehem Rebekah Lodge No. 805, \$40; and Winifred L. Warner, \$10.

Those who have made contributions of materials and equipment include K.W. Barton, masonry contractor, who has furnished the necessary scaffolding; Sears Roebuck and Co., paint; Montgomery Ward, paint; the County Highway Department, a truck every Saturday for hauling trash; and Braden Manufacturing Co., the wire mesh for the front porch and steps.

Also, Mack VanHoutin, contractor, tools, nails, and Ethyl Visqueen, plastic for protecting furnishings while painting.

Barracks 912, Veterans of World War I, is furnishing the food, and members of the Ladies Auxiliary are preparing the food for the workers each Saturday.

Men who have donated their time and labor during the past several Saturdays are: Frank Conto, Leon Huff, Gordon Haworth, Walter McMahan, Mark Goffinett, Jerry Haver, John Myers, Doug Grindle, John Kastigar, Blaine

Chandler, Bob Furnas and Dave Griffith, all from Carpenters Union Local 133; and Earl Slavens, Jerry A. Lee, William Peoples, Mike Short, William Ayre, Carl Hill, Leslie Kennedy, Paul Kennedy and Bob Gibson, from Laborers International Local 204.

Forrest Hudson, a retired plasterer, has done the plaster repair work on the dome and side walls, while Jim Miller, Robert Eugene Smith, Fred Sutton and several members of Barracks 912, Veterans of World War I, have been doing the clean up work and loading the truck.

Kesler, commander of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, along with the other co-chairman Roy D. Smith, Sr., have expressed appreciation for all the help and donations they are getting.

According to them painters and pipe fitters are needed, and are asked to call Roy Smith, after 5 p.m.

There will be no work Saturday because of a Service Seminar being put on by the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans. There will be work as usual April 23.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Rededicate Memorial Hall

The United War Veterans Council will have a public open house and a rededication of the historical GAR Memorial Hall Monday, Labor Day, Sept. 5.

The open house has been planned in order that the public may see the recently completed work on Phase I of the repairs program. Also a time capsule will be planted in the front steps and is to be filled with some historical items or records to be opened in the next century.

For further details persons may contact John A. Kesler, Council Commander, 235-1255; Joseph E. Bilyou, Committee member, 232-6240; or Fred W. Schwartz, Committee member. 232-7589.

AUG 16 1977

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Rededication planned for GAR Memorial Hall

T.H.

A rededication ceremony is scheduled for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5, marking completion of the first phase of the restoration of the GAR Memorial Hall, which was built in 1832 and is one of the oldest buildings in this area.

John A. Kesler, commander of the United War Veterans Council, is handling arrangements for the event, which will begin at 11 a.m. with refreshments, followed by a chicken dinner at noon and a patriotic program.

Reservations for the dinner may be made with Kesler.

Mayor William J. Brighton will welcome the guests. The VFW District Drill Team will present the colors. Music will be provided by the American Legion Kadet Band and by the "Harmony Grits," a barbershop quartet, singing World War I tunes. In addition, the Old Time Fiddlers will perform. Charles Shutt will sing "The Lord's Prayer" as the

invocation. **T AUG 31 1977**

A fashion show, featuring clothes from about 1908 to 1918, will be narrated by Carolyn Toops. Miss Juliet Peddle, Mrs. Hans M. F. Fischer and Mrs. John E. Freed Sr. have loaned several distinctive garments for the occasion. Mrs. Freed will model her World War I nurse's dress uniform. Clarence Campbell, a WWI veteran, will wear his own uniform.

Kesler said that awards will be presented to those who have helped with the restoration of the building. Names of \$100 or more donors will have their names on a special plaque.

Roy Smith will give a brief history of the building. A highlight of the day will be a special tour of Memorial Hall and its collection of war relics and pictures that have been accumulating since its acquisition by the local Civil War veterans.

Representatives of the various veterans groups involved in

the project are expected to attend, along with several of their state and district officers. Veterans of all wars will receive special recognition.

And, looking toward the future, planners of the event have scheduled the burying of a time capsule. Fred Schwartz is in charge of this part of the program.

Others, representing the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, working with Kesler on the special observance are Roy Smith, Joe Bilyou, Fred Sutton and Ed Fagin.

Velma Smith is overseeing preparations for the chicken dinner, for which 100 chickens were donated by VFW Post 972.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Memorial Hall banquet Sept. 5

John A. Kesler, Commander of the United War Veterans Council, announced Friday that Phase I of the restoration of the GAR Memorial Hall has been completed, and a banquet to rededicate the "grand old building" to the community will be held at Memorial Hall on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5.

Refreshments will be served at 11 a.m., followed by an old fashioned chicken dinner at noon, entertainment and a patriotic program.

The program includes a welcome by Terre Haute Mayor William J. Brighton; a style show of dresses from the World War I period, narrated by Carolyn Toops; a quartet singing songs from the period of each war; and a band concert by the American Legion Kadet Band.

The VFW District Drill

Team will present the colors. Brief remarks will be made by representatives of local veterans' organizations (American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans). DAV national and state officers are also expected to be present.

Local veterans with special war experiences will be introduced. One of the special attractions planned includes the burying of a time capsule, Kesler said.

The general public is invited. Tickets are \$2.50 per person and may be purchased at Commander Kesler's law office, 505 Ohio St. Reservations may be made by calling 232-1255.

A highlight of the day will be a special tour of the historic building and its collection of war relics and pictures that have been accumulating at Me-

memorial Hall since its acquisition by the local Civil War veterans. The building was built in 1832, and is the oldest building in this whole area of Indiana and Illinois, with one exception, Kesler said.

Other officers and committee members of the Council are Roy Smith, Earl Slavens, Fred Sutton, Joe Bilyou, Ed Fagin and Fred Schwartz.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE



BUILDING REDEDICATED — Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., built in 1834 and one of the oldest buildings in Terre Haute, was rededicated during ceremonies Monday. Taking part in the ceremony were from left, Mrs. Margaret Freed and Clarence Campbell, who wore WW I uniforms, and John Kesler, commander of the Vigo County United War Veterans Council.

House of Photography Photo

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

**REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE**

T's APR 3 1977

Backers Need Help With Memorial Hall

Community Affairs File

T.H.

Help is needed in the form of money, material and labor for the restoration of Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., one of the oldest buildings in the city.

To date approximately \$1,600 has been received from various sources, the largest single contribution of \$500 coming from the Terre Haute Bar Association.

Members of the local building trades have been doing the work, free of charge, for the past several Saturdays. The ladies auxiliary of Wabash Valley Barracks 912, Veterans of World War I, has been preparing and serving lunch for the workers. The food is being furnished by the Barracks.

Some plasterers are needed for work on the dome and side walls; and any working or retired person, willing to help, is asked to report to the Hall about 9 a.m. Saturday. After the plastering work is completed, the front room, which includes the dome, is to be painted. The paint will be furnished by Porter Paints.

Within the next two weeks, weather permitting, the front steps to the Hall are to be replaced. Haley Bros. Construction Corp. will furnish the concrete and members of the Plasterers and Cement Mason union will do the work.

Anyone wishing to help is

invited to bring their tools any Saturday morning at the Hall.

Contributors to the Memorial Hall Restoration Fund to date are: Disabled American Veterans (from the sale of Liberty Bell replicas), \$241.40; Robert Setzer, \$25; Thomas Jessie, \$10; Speed Johnson \$10; Forrest Sherer, \$100; United War Veterans Council chicken dinner, \$52.80; Eva Thompson, \$10; Joe Cassady, \$10; and \$13.80, anonymous.

Also, Vigo County American Legion Council, \$100; Krietens-stein American Legion Post 104, \$50; Lawton Byrum Post 972, Veterans of Foreign Wars, \$100; Bicentennial Banquet, \$20; Adeline Ingram, \$5; Wayne Newton American Legion Post 346, \$264.50; Pioneer American Legion Post 340, \$100; Wayne Newton Ladies and Junior Auxiliaries, \$25; and Terre Haute Bar Association, \$500.

Anyone wishing to donate should make check payable to Memorial Hall Restoration Fund, and mail to: John Kesler, commander, United War Veterans Council, 505 Ohio St., Terre Haute, Ind. 47807.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Memorial Hall rededication set

By JOE BILYOU

The rededication of Vigo County's second oldest building, Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., is scheduled Labor Day at 11 a.m. Refreshments and a chicken dinner are to be served at noon. Reservations may be made by calling John A. Kesler, commander of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County.

During and immediately following the dinner, a patriotic program is to be presented which includes WW I tunes sung by the "Harmony Grits," music by the Old Time Fiddlers and the singing of "The Lord's Prayer" by Charles Shutt.

A fashion show featuring clothes from the early 1900s is to be narrated by Carolyn Toops. Dresses have been donated by Miss Juliet Peddle and Mrs. Hans M.F. Fisher. Mrs. John E. Freed Sr., is to model her WW I nurses's uniform. Clarence Campbell, a veteran of WWI WW I, is to wear his uniform.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, a time capsule containing a brief history of local veterans' clubs, military organizations, service clubs and other groups, is to be buried. District Drill Team of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are to present the colors. Legion Kadet Marching Band is to provide patriotic and military music.

The public is invited to the dinner and to tour Memorial Hall.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

APR 28 1978
**Open house set
at Memorial Hall**

The improvements at Memorial Hall can be seen during an open house conducted from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, according to John Kesler, United War Veterans Council commander.

Kesler noted that a lecture will begin at 3 p.m. The facility will be open every Sunday in the future between 2 and 4 p.m. for visitors.

Yuba County Public Library

REFERENCE

Community Affairs File

DO NOT CIRCULATE

T JUL 3 1978

Community Affairs

Terre Haute police check Memorial Hall burglary

City police Sunday investigated three burglaries, one at Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., where thieves stole a number of antiques.

Reports stated two antique swords and two World War II bolt action rifles of an undetermined valued were taken along with another rifle described as an 1872 Springfield bolt action weapon valued at \$1,500.

Police said they were unsure the exact way thieves gained

entry because the building has been under extensive remodeling during the past several weeks.

Furniture, a television set, record player and radio valued at a total of \$600 were reportedly stolen from the residence of Jean Stark, 834 Third Ave.

Entry was gained by forcing open a back door.

David C. Morris, 111½ S. 13th St., reported intruders took \$50 in cash, an undetermined

amount of coins and a 19¢ dime.

Reports indicate a lock on the front door had been "picked."

A shotgun valued at \$90 and about \$130 worth of fishing equipment were stolen from a pickup truck belonging to Jack Dunn, 1308 N. 27th St.

Dunn told officers his unlocked vehicle was parked in front of 10th and Locust streets at the time of the theft.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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PICKED AS HISTORIC PLACE—The G.A.R. Memorial Hall at 219 Ohio St. has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed in 1834 as a branch bank of the Second State Bank of Indiana, it is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in this section of Indiana. It is the oldest business building in the county. This photo was taken shortly after the hall was redecorated in 1959.

Memorial Hall

On Register

The G.A.R. Memorial Hall at 219 Ohio St. has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, it was announced Wednesday by Seventh District Congressman John T. Myers.

Memorial Hall is the oldest business building in Terre Haute.

The National Register of Historic Places is a list of distinction identifying for the people sites, buildings and structures significant in American history and worthy of preservation for their historic value.

Myers said the addition of Memorial Hall to the National Register qualifies the building for protection and possibly Federal assistance for further restoration.

The building was constructed in 1834 as a branch bank of the Second State Bank of Indiana and is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in this section of Indiana. Edwin J. Peck, a prominent Indiana architect and builder of the period, was superintendent of construction. The mark of its architectural significance is the facade which imitates a Greek

doric temple with four columns.

When the National Banks were organized in 1865, the bank

Continued On Page 2, Col. 6.

Memorial

OCT 31 1973

Continued From Page One.

ceased operations. The building was then sold as a commercial store and has changed ownership several times since then. It became the G.A.R. Memorial Hall Association headquarters in the 1920's and is presently under the care of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County.

Memorial Hall Association Completes Reorganization

T MAR 20 1978

John A. Kesler, commander of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County has announced the reorganization of the Memorial Hall Association.

The Association organized "to maintain Memorial Hall for patriotic, charitable and benevolent purposes where war relics may be kept and kindred organizations may have a meeting place." It also holds legal title to the historic building, the oldest business structure in the count. built in 1832 as a bank.

In searching through the records and files of the Association, Kesler discovered that Association members were largely World War I veterans, most of them being inactive and unable to participate in the business affairs of the organization.

Several older veterans consented to remain on the board and were re-elected. The 13 trustees named to the board were Harold Jones, Edgar Fagin, Joseph Bilyou, Fred Schwartz, Samuel Grafe, Jerry Lawrence, Huey McBride, Jim English, R. Kenneth Shook Sr., Earl Slavens Sr., Fred Sutton, Helenruth Hollingsworth and Kesler.

"As Memorial Hall is expected to be a focal point of local Bicentennial activities this year," Kesler commented, "we want everything to be on order and the building in top condition for the July celebration."

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Community Affairs File

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T. H. Memorial Hall

REFERENCE
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MEMORIAL HALL

ELECTS OFFICERS

Trib-Star 8-24-69

Officers for the coming year and the 13-member board of trustees were elected by members of the Memorial Hall Association during its monthly meeting Aug. 19.

Sam A. Grafe was elected president of the association. The other officers are Virgil Wilson, vice president; Kenneth Shook, treasurer, and Helen Hollingsworth, secretary.

The new members of the board are Grafe, Mrs. Hollingsworth, Wilson, Shook, Norris Shake, Ann Hawkins, Ray L. Lovell, Frank Brown, A. J. Shaffer, Delbert McWilliams, John Arnold, Claude Rukes and Ernest S. Ward.

INDIANA ROOM

Viigo County Public Library

Historic Landmarks (T.H.)
Memorial Hall drive
Community Affairs File (W.U.)
opens today in city
APR 27 1984

In an effort to repair and renovate Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, 219 Ohio St., a fund-raising drive will take place today and Saturday at road blocks in the community, according to Memorial Hall Association president John Kesler.

"Memorial Hall is the oldest building in this area and our most tangible link to an illustrious past," Kesler said. "We owe it to our posterity to fulfill our responsibility to preserve it."

The building, built in 1832 as a bank, is a repository for Civil War and subsequent wars' memorabilia

and is totally self-supporting. The facility needs a new heating plant and other miscellaneous repairs and refurbishing, Kesler said.

Solicitors for the fund drive will be Kesler and other association officers and their families.

"We'll be at downtown intersections each day until dark," Dale Baker, secretary-treasurer, said.

"Anyone giving a donation will get a sticker saying 'I helped save Memorial Hall,' and it will have the building's picture on it."

The goal is \$10,000, but only \$600 has been collected from donations, Baker said.

Vigo County Public Library

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CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

T MAR 5 1982

Memorial Hall
Local Notes (T.H.)

Memorial Hall trustees named

Thirteen new trustees of the Memorial Hall Association were named at a meeting this week.

Memorial Hall, located on Ohio street between Second and Third streets, was the first bank in Terre Haute, chartered by the State of Indiana. The building is the site of meetings of several veterans organizations and contains a variety of war memorabilia.

Trustees named include Bill Toy, Ed Fagin, Earl Slavens, Fred Schwartz, Dick Snyder, Bill Bartlett, Dorothy Clark, John Kesler, Fred Sutton, Roy Smith, Joe Bilyou, Lee Phifer and Danny Hatcher.

A meeting to elect officers has been tentatively set for 6 p.m. Thursday in the hall.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library

THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE,

1 APR 3 1972

War Veterans

Community Affairs File

Will Maintain

Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall (H)

The United War Veterans Council has assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Memorial Hall, 319 Ohio St.

William Whitlock, commander of the council, announced the new duties Sunday. The council accepted the responsibility formerly held by the World War I Veterans Barracks 912.

Also, all legal papers, deeds and funds have been transferred from the Memorial Hall Association Barracks 912 to the Memorial Hall Association of United War Veterans Council.

Commander Whitlock has also appointed the following persons to compose the Memorial Hall Association: Harold Jones, Post 501 American Legion, Chairman; Ed Fagin, Post 328 American Legion, who is treasurer of the Council and will also serve in the same position of the new Association; Commander Ray Smith, Post 346 American Legion; Commander Whitlock; Charles Smith, Post 104 American Legion; Fred Schwartz, Post 40 American Legion; Sam Grafe, World War I Barracks 912; Hugh Munson, Chef De Gare 40 and 8; and Al Hellar, Post 972 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander Whitlock has already called the first meeting of the new association for April 6, at 8 p.m., at the Memorial Hall. All members are urged to attend.

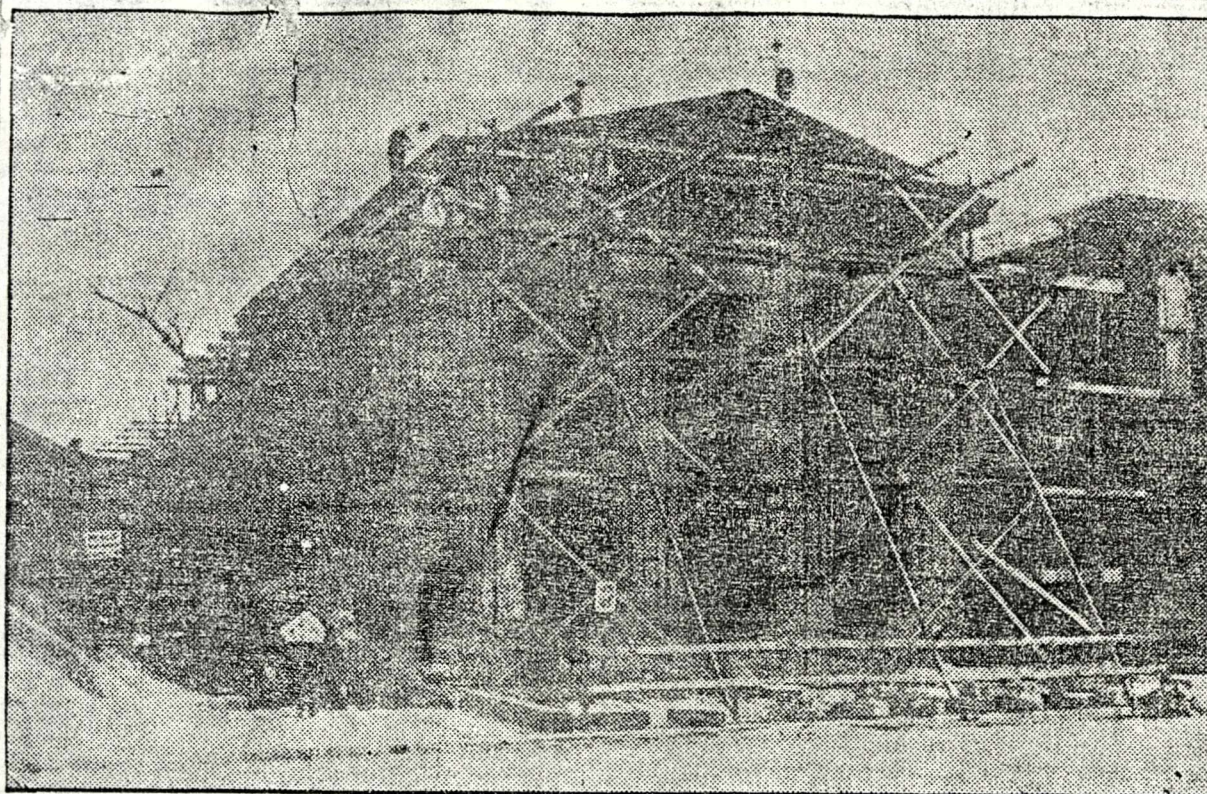
Special Collections



MEMORIAL HALL, located across the street from the Vigo County Courthouse, at 219 Ohio St., is the oldest business building in the city. Built in 1834, as a Branch Bank of the Second State Bank of Indiana, the state's most successful financial institution in the pre-Civil War era, Memorial Hall has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by Martin.

Special Collections

Will be Converted to Uses of Veterans of Civil the War



MEMORIAL HALL COVERED WITH SCAFFOLDING TODAY.

GAY SCENES AT "EAGLE AND LION" HERE 100 YEARS AGO, BUT HIGH COST OF LIVING WAS FIXED BY THE COUNTY

Taverns were popular in Terre Haute in the early days. Many of them became famous in the section of the country and distinguished visitors were entertained. In another article of a series A. R. Markle tells about them. It follows:

THE TOWN OF TERRE HAUTE By A. R. Markle

Immediately after the sale of lots in the new town, Henry Redford began the erection of a two-story log house, afterward known as the "Eagle and Lion." It was completed in time for the celebration of Independence Day, July 4, 1817, by a grand banquet, speaking and ball. Court was held there after the organization of the county, Masonic Lodge No. 19 held its early meetings there and for many years it was the center of the social life of the community.

It stood at the southeast corner of Wabash and First, where Duncan & Kingsolver now are, and its location there was a matter of chance, for, at the close of the sale, it was found that Gen. Washington Johnston, clerk of the sale, had made out two bonds for lot No. 197, one of which had been given Redford in place of the bond for No. 193, at the southeast corner of Cherry and First.

However, George C. Gwathmey,

Redford seems to have had the place for only a short time, for in 1819 we find Robert Harrison running the Eagle and Lion. Harrison was succeeded by James Wasson, who sold out in 1835, the advertisement of his sale stating he had occupied the place for seven years, which would indicate that he took it over from Harrison in 1828. As he sold the furniture, bedding, dishes, etc., at this time, we may conclude that he closed the house and we have no knowledge as to its later history.

In February, 1819, a license was granted to Samuel McQuilkin to keep tavern. This was the Light Horse tavern, situated at the northeast corner of Third and Wabash-sts. He continued to run this place until about 1832, for Thompson and Condit advertised Feb. 28, 1833, "the tavern stand formerly occupied by Samuel McQuilkin, at Market-st. and the National road." Jonathan Osborn took the house in April of that year, while in December Matthew Stewart announced the opening of the Terre Haute hotel, Jan. 1, 1834. Part of this house is standing at No. 10 N. Second-st. George Hussey was manager of the house at the time of the opening of the National house, in 1856, he leaving there to become manager for

and place of entertainment, for sale or rent, but where this was I am unable to determine.

At later times there were the Buntin, or Stunkard house, the Clark house, the Dole house (also known as the Mansion house or Cunningham's), the Prairie house (later the Terre Haute), the Eagle house and Union hall. The Buntin and Prairie houses are still in operation, the former little changed, while a part of the Clark house is standing at the northwest corner of First and Ohio.

An order of the county commissioners, made Aug. 12, 1818, fixed the rate per meal at 25 cents; night's lodging, 12½ cents; board by the week, \$2.50; one-half pint whisky, 12½ cents; one-half pint gin, 18½ cents; one-half pint rum, 37½ cents; one-half pint brandy or wine, 50 cents; while a gallon of corn for the horse should cost 12½ cents and of oats, 25 cents. Horse feed for the night on hay and corn was to cost 25 cents.

A STRAWBERRY
A Vast Change Has Been Made
the Historical Spot.
The Scene of Many Pleasures
of One of the

Early Tragedies of Vigo County



TRA WBB
Hill, the scene of many merry parties of the past few and also the of one of the tragedies of county, has almost entirely

literated by the work of the contractor this summer who have cut down filled in the historical old hill can no longer be recognized will ere long become of the many handsome residential parts of the city. If the city and young people who have at themselves at coming upon the site could have looked back here on the 5th of July, 1844, they would have caused the strongest shudder. It was at the base of the sloping hill within sight of the of curious people thronged to see it, the first hanging in this county

curried. The first man who paid penalty of murder was executed on spot. It was Henry Dyas, the murderer of George Brock, in Nevins town.

Being the first death penalty executed by the law in this county, naturally there was great interest manifested by the people of the neighboring cities of this state and Illinois. Many with their families, flocked to the great numbers and a crowd estimated several thousand witnessed the scene in the dark tragedy of which was the central figure. The slope of hill furnished a natural amphitheater for the crowd.

The prisoner rode from the jail, corner of Third and Ohio streets, to the gallows, seated on his own chair, which was placed in an open wagon. His own request he was to wear a white shroud, and the gallows afforded, was followed by an eager, curious crowd.

The time for the execution of place was near at hand and Sheriff Ray and Deputy M. M. Hixson had preparations made. The sheriff stepped the trap after his deputy had fixed rope around the neck of the criminal. In adjusting this the knot slipped, instead of having his neck broken by fall, he was slowly strangled to death.

The murder for which Dyas was executed was one of the most horrible unprovoked crimes ever committed in the state. It was committed in the fall of 1843 and the scene of the crime was log cabin of old Mrs. Brady, situated near the old Brooks mill, on Otter Creek about a mile north of the station Grant.

Mrs. Brady was a notorious character in the sparsely settled neighborhood with a daughter who bore as hard a reputation as her mother, kept a place, where liquor was sold and night can cans were held on frequent occasions. This low den was a favorite resort for all the tough characters miles around and among them Henry Dyas. He was a man of

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library
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TRIBUNE-STAR

Editorials

—"I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."—Voltaire.

Memorial Hall Takes Its Rightful Place

Wigo County Public Library (711)
Community Affairs File

The G.A.R. Memorial Hall, the oldest business building in Terre Haute, now has taken its rightful place in the National Register of Historic Places.

Constructed in 1834 as a branch bank of the Second State Bank of Indiana, it is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in this section of Indiana. The mark of its architectural significance is the facade which imitates a Greek doric temple with four fluted columns.

The addition of Memorial Hall to the National Register qualifies it for protection and possible Federal assistance for further restoration.

We're pleased that local citizens interested in saving this outstanding architectural gem have succeeded in getting it included in the National Register of Historic Places.

As we said before, that is where the G.A.R. Memorial Hall belongs.

It provides us with a meaningful bridge to our proud and historic past. Ts NOV 4 1973

Data Bank Safeguards

The state of Massachusetts has been out there with shield and buckler and singing sword, whanging away at a threat to civil liberties. Residents of other states, no less threatened, owe a debt of gratitude to the Bay State's Gov. Francis W. Sargent and his cohorts in the fight against invasion of privacy.

The invasion is being attempted, perhaps innocently enough in some cases, by federal computerized information systems. That phrase, "perhaps innocently enough," is intended to acknowledge that the motivation behind such systems may be excellent. Unfortunately, some side effects are highly questionable.

In a recent address on the subject of the computer and civil liberties, Governor Sargent told of Massachusetts' resistance to tying in with the FBI's National Crime Information Center. Sargent does not object to the computerized crime data bank as such. What he does resist is the dehumanizing, liberty-curbing effects of a system which

The POWER of FAITH WOOD



THE BIBLE

107. The Death of Abimelech

After Abimelech had reigned for three years, God caused the people of Shechem to revolt. First, they set an ambush along a mountain trail, but Abimelech was away, probably because the ambushers robbed all who passed. But about that time, Gaal, the son of Ebed, came with his kinsmen to Shechem. During the harvest festival, he stirred the people to revolt. Zebul, Abimelech's officer in Shechem, sent messengers to have Abimelech's army march through the night and surround the city. Next morning, Gaal's men were overwhelmed, and Zebul drove Gaal and his relatives from the city.

Nevertheless, on the next day the men of Shechem battled Abimelech, but he triumphed, razed the city, and killed the people except for the thousand who hid in the temple of the god Berith. Abimelech set fire to the bundles of firewood he had placed around the temple, thus burning to death those who were hiding there.

Then Abimelech attacked and captured Thebez. But there was a strong tower in the city, and the people fled there, locked it, and climbed to the top. Abimelech planned to burn it as he had done the temple of Berith. But a woman on the roof threw a millstone. It landed on Abimelech's head, crushing his skull.

Abimelech, mortally wounded, commanded his armorbearer: "...Draw thy sword and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him." (Judges 9:54) The soldier obeyed, and the army disbanded. Thus Abimelech and the men of Shechem were killed.

Community Affairs File

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Memorial Hall Is Terre Haute's Oldest

Community Affairs File



Sp MAR 30 1974

Only

Yesterday

By Frances E. Hughes

Many Terre Hauteans are interested in Memorial Hall, Terre Haute's oldest building originally built for commercial use, located at 219 Ohio Street.

The 140-year-old Greek Renaissance building with its Greek Doric columns in front was built in 1834 to house one of the 13 branches of the State bank of Indiana, the first bank in Terre Haute.

Let's hope it remains forever as a link to the past in the history of the city.

After the Kussners left Terre Haute, its charter expired in about 25 years, the building was used as a music store called "The House of Music" on the first floor. Kussner, his wife and three children lived on the second floor of the building.

After the Kussners left Terre Haute, the building was used as museum of artifacts and pictures of the Civil War and of earlier days in Terre Haute. It was then called "The Old Curiosity Shop," and Zebulen Heaberlin was proprietor.

In 1910, the Grand Army of the

Republic purchased the building from Kussner and the inscription "G.A.R." was placed at the top of the front entrance of the structure. Meetings of the GAR were held there and the Memorial Hall Association was organized to be in charge of the building, which it has been doing ever since.

When there were few Civil War veterans left, the building was given to the Spanish American War Veterans, who, in turn, gave it to the Veterans of World War I, Barracks 912, eight years ago.

There are now only a few Spanish American War veterans left.

Although many Terre Hauteans are familiar with the exterior of the building, few have ever been inside the well-preserved structure.

Besides the large front room on the first floor, which has a semi-circular dome just inside the front door, there are a dining room, kitchen and rest room in the downstairs of the original part of the building. When Memorial Hall was remodeled in 1921, Perry Fitzgerald, who owned a bakery next door, and Thomas J. Cottom donated a large assembly hall that was built on the back.

Floors throughout the building are of oak and are in good condition. The walls are painted in light colors and in 1969, after a successful campaign was used to obtain money, the out-

side of the building was repainted white.

Upsairs, there are three room and another restroom. Only one of these rooms is used for a meeting room; the other for storage.

The outstanding feature of the interior of the historic building the high dome, surrounded by four Greek Doric pillars like those in front of the building, in the downstairs front room. In this dome are portraits on glass of eight of the officers of the first bank housed there and eight Terre Haute men who served as officers in the Civil War. Lights back of these pictures illuminate them, making them stand out in an impressive way.

Bank officials who are pictured there are Demas Deming, Curtis Gilbert, Levi G. Warren and Preston Hussey, all presidents, and Nathaniel Preston, Joseph S. Jenckes, William R. McKeen and Charles M. Warren, cashiers.

The eight Civil War officers pictured are General Charles Cruft, Col. 31st Indiana Infantry; William S. McLean, Col. 43rd Indiana Infantry; John P. Baird, Col. 85th Indiana Infantry, for whom John P. Baird Post No. 592, Grand Army of the Republic, was named; Alexander B. Crane, Col. 85th Indiana Infantry; Colonel Richard W. Thompson, once secretary of the Navy; William H.

Fairbanks, Col. 149th Indiana Infantry, for whom John P. Baird Post Indiana Cavalry; Melville D. Topping, Col. Commanding 71st Indiana Infantry and Robert N. Hudson, Col. 133rd Indiana Infantry.

Names of some of these men may be found in many organizations, schools and business establishments in the city as they were among the outstanding local citizens of their day.

Also in this big room, there is an oil painting of "Spirit of 1776," painted by a drifter who offered to do it for a week's lodging at Memorial Hall in March of 1926. The man's surname was Mack.

In Memorial Hall, there is also a large collection of history books about the wars, other paintings, steel engravings, photographs, etc., of persons and war scenes, as well as emblems of the various veterans' organizations and their auxiliaries.

Pictures of Paul Dresser, Jerry Fitzgerald, Washington and Lincoln, several busts of famous men, an old cannon, drum and other war mementoes also are of interest in the building.

Several organizations still meet there regularly and tours of groups are taken through the buildings. The rooms are open to other organizations for meetings and other events. Money from the rent from these rooms is used for upkeep of the building.

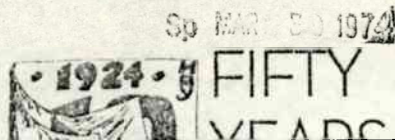
Max Ehrmann Writes "Life of Paul Dresser"

Sp MAR 30 1974

Maple avenue, Lafayette avenue and Thirteenth street. June Brown has a 5-year lease on the corner of Lafayette and Maple and will erect a modern oil station. The King's

sent to William Fortune, national chairman of the Paul Dresser Memorial, he sent to Mr. Ehrmann a telegram which read; "The sketch is en-

nounce the birth of a son, Richard Nicholas, last Friday. Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Coppock, 2617 South Seventh announce the birth of a son: Wil-



Restore Memorial

S AUG 24 1976

Hall Drive Begins

Historic Landmarks (TL)

United War Veterans Council of Vigo County announced Monday beginning of a fund drive for money to restore the GAR Memorial Hall on Ohio Street near South Third Street.

John A. Kesler, Council Commander, outlined details of the plan to restore the more than 140-year old building, the oldest commercial building in Vigo county and a building housing "priceless and irreplaceable" records of local history.

When Kesler became commander earlier this year he began plans to save

the landmark. The Memorial Hall Association, made up primarily of World War I veterans, most of whom were inactive, was called into special session by Kesler, local attorney, who did the work on bringing to date and cure the title and abstract.

Noting that the building, originally built in 1834 as a branch bank of the State Bank of Indiana, and its contents are "literally permeated with history," Kesler emphasized that "if we don't move quickly it may soon be too late" to save the structure.

He estimated that about \$10,000 are needed at once to improve the general outside appearance and repair the leaks in the dome to arrest further deterioration of the structure.

Kesler said an estimated \$100,000 will be required for a complete job of cleaning the entire building and repairing the plumbing and wiring. Stressing again that the hall was a "storehouse" of history, Kessler said the Council would like to see the building open to the public on a daily basis eventually, and hoped that the schools would be interested in the Hall.

Contributions in any amount may be mailed to the Memorial Hall Improvement Fund, 219 Ohio St., Terre Haute.

REFERENCE
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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1944

MEMORIAL HALL BATTLE TROPHIES

Flags, Pictures, Weapons and
I. Brune Recall the Thrilling
Days of Another Crisis.
READERS SERVICE

VERTICAL FILE

John T. Brassie.

War trophies are gruesome objects, yet their enshrinement in museums is an age old custom. They are not, however, exhibited because of the destruction they have wrought, rather because such pieces are symbols of valor and heroism on the battlefield in the defense of our democratic institutions.

Memorial Hall at 219 Ohio street has been set aside in Terre Haute as a suitable shrine to keep alive forever the memory of men who sacrificed their lives or rendered distinguished service in wars involving our nation.

Members of patriotic and veterans' organizations, whose relatives have participated in wars, meet regularly at the hall and each hold some type memorial for departed comrades.

As visitors explore each case wherein lie the sacred souvenirs of combat, a feeling of awe overcomes them. Memory is permitted to lapse to the events in history which has recorded the glories of the past. Hallowed is Memorial Hall for within its walls are contained the link between the national heroes of another day and the present generation.

Venerable Uniforms.

While viewing each treasure a vivid picture is formed of the participant in which it is a token. Deeds of brave men, executed on the field of battle, are recounted with feelings of gratitude and pride.

The uniform and equipment worn by Capt. John J. P. Blinn of Terre Haute, killed in the battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, hangs in a case on the wall in the hall. The visitor's imagination surely will run riot, and while observing it almost utter, "if it could only speak."

A bronze tablet on which is inscribed the immortal words of the Civil War president, Abraham Lincoln, on the occasion of his Gettysburg address, occupies a prominent place. The message contained thereon is ever new and the words "that they shall not have died in vain" are applicable today as on that memorable date.

individual photographs of some 90 Terre Haute and Indiana men who served their country in the great conflict between states hang on the walls, presenting a fitting memorial. Just one remains alive today. He is Col. James Hutchison, 96 years old, 433 North Thirteenth street, who served in the 24th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Born in Scotland, Comrade Hutchison came to this country when a young man and worked in the coal mines here. When hostilities broke out he answered the call to arms by enlisting in the Union army in Warwick county on March 18, 1864. He fought in the siege of Atlanta, marched with Sherman to the sea and saw action in other battles.

A drum presented to Daniel Fisk for faithful services by Col. Gorman of the Fourth Infantry in the year 1848 is also preserved. As are numerous guns, sabers, bayonets, canteens, soldiers' Bibles and shells, all remnants of battle and peace.

Discolored by age, a huge American flag, presented to the city of

Terre Haute by the citizens' committee on July 4, 1878, reposes in a frame, retired from service.

Memorial Hall, formerly the Terre Haute First National bank, was built in 1812, and after it was abandoned as a bank it was converted into a shrine for relics and a meeting place for patriotic organizations in some wise related to veteran affairs.

Through the efforts of the late Jerry Fitzgerald and Comrade Thomas J. Cottom the building was rehabilitated in 1921 following its condemnation and saved for the G. A. R. A group of 12 men, known as the Memorial Hall Association, maintain the institution.

A half-dome in the building contains the pictures of early Indiana army officers and the first president and cashiers of the financial institution which operated there.

The army officers are General Charles Cruft, 31st Infantry; Col. William E. McLean, 43rd Infantry; Col. John P. Baird, 85th Infantry; Col. Alexander B. Crane, 85th Infantry; Col. Richard Thompson. Col. William H. Fairbanks, 49th Infantry; Col. Robert R. Stewart, 11th Cavalry; Col. Commander Medville D. Topping, 71st Infantry, and Col. Robert N. Hudson, 133rd Infantry.

Bank officials whose pictures adorn the dome are Demas Deming, president, 1836-'45; Curtis Gilbert, president, 1845-'53; Levi G. Warren, president 1853-'65; Preston Hussey, 1865-1910; Nathaniel Preston, cashier, 1849; Joseph S. Jenckes, cashier, 1852; William McKeef, cashier, 1852-'54, and Charles M. Warren, 1865-'93.

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

A Visit To Memorial Hall

READERS SERVICE

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Memorial Hall, located at 219 Ohio street, is one of the oldest buildings in Terre Haute. It was built in 1834 (though a sign on the front reads "erected 1832") as the home of the Branch Bank of the State of Indiana. There were 13 of these banks scattered over the state and all were easily identified by their Grecian style of architecture.

Mr. Edwin J. Peck was the superintendent of construction of the building, as well as the



Dorothy J. Clark

bank buildings at Madison, Lafayette and South Bend. Each bank was identical with the tall massive columns supporting a plain entablature, making an impressive front porch.

The Indiana State Legislature chartered the State Bank of Indiana in the winter of 1833-1834 for a period of 25 years. Thirteen banks known as Brance Banks were organized and Terre Haute was organized in the first year of the charter.

A group of our most prominent citizens met at the Court House on October 25th, 1834, and chose directors at a second meeting November 4, 1834. Demas Deming was chosen to be the president and James Farrington as cashier.

Bank Had Fine Credit.

During the whole of its existence from 1834 to 1857 (the charter lapsed in 1858), the credit of the State Bank of Indiana was not exceeded by any bank in the United States. Its regular annual dividends for 20 years averaged 10 to 12 per cent, and at the expiration of the charter, there was a surplus of 100 per cent to divide among the stockholders. When the finances of the state and nation were in a muddled condition during the panic of 1837, this state bank was an outstanding institution.

The Wabash Courier of December, 1858, printed the following well-deserved epitaph: "... let a monument be raised over the tomb of this Institution: 'Here lies the shade of a Bank that has paid all its dues, made a profit for the state, and went to an honorable grave'..."

This venerable landmark of Terre Haute's early village days went on to have an interesting and varied career. After the banking days were over, it was occupied for some years as a family residence. Then it was turned into a piano store. Still later it was transformed into a storage building and sort of a museum. It became known as the "Old Curiosity Shop," Mr. Zebulon Hearberlin, proprietor. His ideal was that his

collection should comprise anything and everything that bore the mark of age. An old musket was the more highly valued for its broken fire lock; and a spinning wheel was more highly prized if it had lost its power to spin, etc.

A picture of the building when it was used as a junk shop shows the front porch divided by a ramp-like structure between the two middle columns leading from the front door to the sidewalk. This changed the appearance of the building, as we know it today.

Makes Tour of Building.

Mr. James A. Scarborough, custodian of the present Memorial Hall, was my guide through the building and its varied contents. Mr. Scarborough is a Spanish-American War veteran who served three years in Battery L, U. S. Seacoast Artillery. He enlisted at the age of 18, and is now 77 years old.

The front or north room is the original building, now about 122 years old. Up high in the sky-lighted dome are the portraits on glass of 17 men, arranged in a double row. Electric lights have been placed behind these portraits so the features can be more easily seen. Under each portrait has been painted the name and either the title or dates of service. "Demas Deming, 1836-1845; Curtis Gilbert, 1845-1853; Levi G. Warren, 1852-1865; Preston Hussey, 1865-1910 were listed as Presidents. The

cashiers were: Nathaniel Preston, 1845-1849; Joseph S. Jenckes, 1849-1852; William R. McKeen, 1852-1854; Charles M. Warren, 1865-1893."

"Gen. Charles Cruft, Col. 31st Ind. Infantry; Wm. E. McLean, Col. 43rd Ind. Infantry; John P. Baird, Col. 85th Ind. Infantry; Alexander B. Crane, Col. 85th Ind. Infantry; Col. Richard Thompson; Wm. H. Fairbanks, Col. 149th Ind. Infantry; Robert R. Stewart, Col. 11th Ind. Infantry; Melville D. Topping, Col. Commanding 71st Ind. Infantry, and Robert N. Hudson, Col. 133rd Ind. Infantry."

Everything on display in Memorial Hall is either too high on the wall to be seen or behind glass that hasn't been washed. There are huge framed portraits of Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley, Generals Sherman and Sheridan and Grant, and historic events such as Betsey Ross making the flag, Daniel Webster addressing the Senate in 1850 and many of the Civil War battles.

Show Prison Scene.

One of the most interesting framed pictures is a very large one of Andersonville Prison Camp, Sumter, Georgia, as it appeared August 1, 1864, when it contained 35,000 prisoners of war. This was drawn from memory by Thomas O'Dea. After seeing this very realistic panorama, one can better visualize some of the horrors described in the recent book—"Andersonville."

In the north room are many glass cases containing all sorts of Civil War relics, badges, uniforms, medals, guns, bullets, flags, etc. In a tall glass case are displayed the "uniform and equipment worn by Capt. John J. P. Blinn of Terre Haute killed in battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863"—two dark blue uniform coats complete with brass buttons and a red sash.

One case contained several drums, one of which was tagged, "Presented to Daniel Fisk for faithful service by Colonel Gorman of Fourth Infantry in year 1848."

On the fireplace wall I counted 80 small portraits of local Civil War Veterans. Most of these were autographed, but there were too many for me to copy at that time. I saw several framed under glass displays of Confederate money. There are framed charters for most of the patriotic and fraternal societies that have met at the Hall. Some are draped in black crepe denoting a death of a member.

Over the fireplace in the south room is a huge framed flag with only 38 stars arranged in a circular fashion. This is explained in gold letters—"presented to city of Terre Haute, July 4, 1878."

Carved in the stone is this information—"Welcome G.A.R. Remodeled May 23, 1921, through efforts of our friend Jerry Fitzgerald and comrade Thos. J. Cottom." In the north room is a large portrait of Jerry Fitzgerald with this below it—"the man whom we all love and honor for his untiring efforts in raising funds to rehabilitate Memorial Hall after it was condemned and saved it for G.A.R."

It seems to me our children would appreciate visiting this historic and interesting building with its priceless contents, the nearest Terre Haute can offer in the way of a museum.

HAD ENOUGH

CHESTER, Ill.—(P)—Lonnie S. Porter Jr., Nashville, Tenn., truck driver, escaped injury when his truck and an auto collided near here. A St. Louis, Mo., man was killed and three persons were injured. Porter started out later in the day with another truck. It overturned down an embankment after hitting a patch of slick highway. Porter again was uninjured, but he gave up driving for the day.

Wrecker's ball awakens Terre Haute to its past

Terre Haute has a heritage of attractively decrepit buildings — some of historic and/or architectural significance. Many are well worth saving, but in the 30 years we've lived here, local citizens seem blissfully unaware of the treasure until the wrecker's ball is poised to swing.

It happened first with the old YWCA — a singularly uninteresting building with no claim to salvation other than sentimental value. Then it was the Preston House which has subsequently burned and deteriorated to an almost unsalvageable state. We've also witnessed a goal-line defense of the chapel at St. Anthony Hospital and most recently the Big Four railroad station.

So far, we haven't won any of the above, although ConRail may have to send in the field-goal unit to score any points on the demolition of the station.

The one building which seems to have first claim as an important historic site is the GAR Memorial Hall. Originally one of 13 branches of the State Bank of Indiana chartered in 1834, the building is the only one of the bank buildings surviving.

Although the building has no significance as a military memorial except that acquired since the Civil War veterans assumed ownership, quibbling over its identification has stalled any genuine preservation effort.

Over the years there have been sporadic efforts to preserve — but never to restore the building. Tag days have raised a couple hundred dollars. Materials have been donated and labor unions have volunteered skills to put cosmetic touches on the sturdy doric columns supporting the cornice and to shore up the crumbling front stairs. These are nice touches, but like an aging body, lipstick and rouge aren't enough to stay the inevitable decay. The building now needs major surgery.



Ms. Takes

Ciancone covers education, arts, religion and a gaggle of other topics for The Tribune-Star. Any of those areas — and more — may be fodder for her column.

By Liz Ciancone
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The building is owned by the Memorial Hall Association, an offshoot of the United Veterans' Council. The association of 13 trustees, many of them veterans of World War I, is financially unable to maintain the building. There isn't even a catalog of the records and military memorabilia, a secondary historic treasure, housed in the rotunda. Yet the association has historically refused any help to get its house in order if there are strings attached.

It took me 30 years, but I finally got into the building last spring. A rough winter had burst pipes and the few hundred dollars gleaned in a hastily contrived road block wouldn't begin to pay for the new furnace the building requires. Volunteers had put in a new kitchen floor after someone had broken through, but windows were out and there was dirt everywhere.

The Vigo County Historic Preservation group expresses interest, but not without some control over the results and probably not until more immediate battles with the Preston House and the Big Four station have been won (or lost).

In the meantime Terre Haute's primary claim to historic fame is rotting away. Pity.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Terre Haute Memorial Hall
Purchase of

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PAMPHLET FILE

INDIANA ROOM

THE MEMORIAL HALL ASSOCIATION, of Vigo County, Indiana, has purchased the Indiana State Bank building, commonly known as the "Old Curiosity Shop", on Ohio Street. The Association hopes, by the aid of subscriptions, to restore the building to its original dignity and beauty, and to dedicate it as a perpetual memorial to the soldiers and sailors of Vigo County, and to the officers of the Old Indiana State Bank. The building, with addition, may also serve as a meeting place and club house for present and future organizations of soldiers and sailors; and as a safe and permanent historical depository.

Memorial Hall Association copy 2

The Old Indiana State Bank is one of those beautiful buildings in the perfect Grecian style, so familiar in the early days of the republic, but so rarely seen now. It is the finest, in fact almost the only specimen of Grecian architecture in Terre Haute. Such buildings are highly prized by all cities so fortunate as to possess them. Therefore, the restoration and preservation of the only interesting relic of this character in this city appeals strongly to the lovers of architecture and local history: that it should become a memorial of the bankers who so long and honorably conducted a great financial institution there seems most fitting, while its permanent dedication to the brave soldiers and sailors past, present and future of Vigo County is a pleasure as well as a patriotic duty.

To assist the Memorial Association in carrying out its plans is a privilege.

The following or something similar will be placed on a tablet within the building:-

This MEMORIAL HALL is dedicated to the Soldiers and Sailors of Vigo County, to the wise and prudent Officers of the Bank occupying this building from its erection to the bank's removal, and to the citizens who made its establishment possible.

BRANCH BANK OF THE STATE BANK OF INDIANA.

Demas Deming	President	1836 to 1845
Curtis Gilbert	"	1845 " 1853
Levi G. Warren	"	1853 " 1865
Preston Hussey	"	1865 " 1910
James Farrington	Cashier	
A.B. Fontaine	"	
Nathaniel Preston	"	18 " 1849
Joseph S. Jenckes	"	1849 " 1852
William R. McKeen	"	1852 " 1854
Preston Hussey	"	1854 " 1865
Charles M. Warren	"	1865 " 18

VIGO COUNTY SOLDIERS WHO WERE REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS.

General Charles Cruft	Colonel 31st Ind. Infy.
William E. McLean	" 43rd " "
Halville D. Topping	Col. Commdg. 71st Ind. Infy.
John Baird	Colonel 85th Ind. Infy.
Alexander B. Crane	" 85th " "
Robert N. Hudson	" 133rd " "
William H. Fairbanks	" 149th " "
James K. Stewart	" 2nd " Cavalry
Robert R. Stewart	" 11th " "
Col. Richard W. Thompson	

It is the purpose also to honor the Regimental Commanders and the bank officers with art glass portraits placed in the dome of the building.

Memorial Hall (74)

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